

THE AMERICAN Legion

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A SALUTE TO NATO

Sailors raise the U.S. flag during NATOFest in Norfolk, Va., on April 25. The Norfolk NATO Festival is the longest continuously running festival in the Hampton Roads region, and the only one of its kind in the United States that honors the NATO alliance and its member nations. Photo by Lucas Carter

The American Legion Magazine, a leader among national general-interest publications, is published monthly by The American Legion for its 2 million members. These wartime veterans, working through nearly 13,000 community-level posts, dedicate themselves to God and Country and traditional American values; strong national security; adequate and compassionate care for veterans, their widows and orphans; community service; and the wholesome development of our nation's youth.

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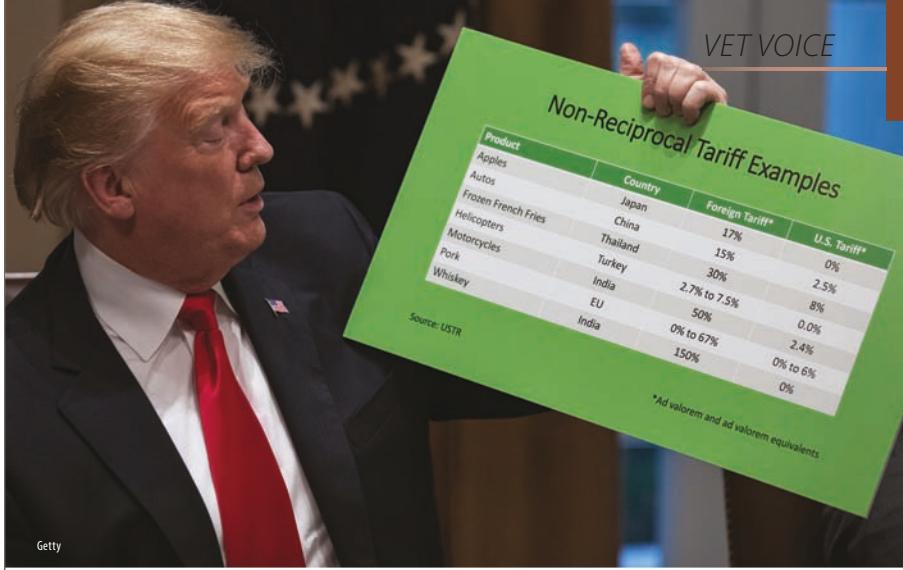
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'Trump's Tariff Gambit'

Alan W. Dowd's article (May) was an interesting look at the history of tariffs in the United States. But there are two things Dowd apparently failed to grasp. The first is that while most tariffs in the past were solely protectionist or punitive, President Trump's efforts are intent on leveling the playing field by forcing other nations to drop protectionist tariffs on U.S. goods.

The second is that the whole of the American left, and much of the right, has consistently and sadly underestimated Trump, from the day he announced his candidacy to his election to his dealings with NATO and North Korea. President Trump, it is clear, should not be underestimated.

— Ruppert Baird, Lugoff, S.C.

Global economics reduces barriers to allow products to be made by the cheapest labor in the world, then sent to wealthier nations. Of the millions of Asian workers involved, 25 percent are estimated to be "forced" labor. That's one tiny step above a slave. They live in cramped, squalid company housing units and work in factories OSHA would condemn. Millions of Americans lost their jobs to these poor people, while the moneyed people reaped huge returns. President Trump's bold actions have brought many manufacturing jobs back to our country and are forcing Asian slavemasters to reform.

— Joe McGuire, Boston, Ky.

The only correct way to handle trade with other nations is to treat them exactly as they treat us. That is fair trade.

I retired in Germany and decided to try to start my own company. I also decided to buy a

Jeep and had it delivered to Germany. It cost about \$29,000 when I picked it up. I drove about 200 feet and went through German customs. Now my Jeep cost me \$55,000.

Yes, that is how Germany treats all cars imported from the United States: 89 percent taxation. There are almost no made-in-the-USA cars operating in all of Europe.

The rest of the world is taking advantage of the United States, and we have allowed this to continue. That is why we lose about \$600 billion from our total economy to the rest of the world each and every year.

Do not think the rest of the world believes in actual fair trade with the United States. They can't keep up when we all work. This is why the United States used to be the world's largest creditor nation, and has for a long time been the world's largest debtor nation.

— Ronald M. Brooke, Orlando

While Alan Dowd approaches trade relations from an academic perspective, I approach the subject based on my Vietnam combat leadership and forest-product operational experience.

For years, the Canadian forest-products sector exploited weak U.S. trade negotiations to operate in an atmosphere that was neither fair nor free trade. The Canadians had a different understanding of subsidy than the U.S. government; they provided their industry with the ability to secure raw material, and build and maintain facilities going back at least 40 years, that was not available to U.S. operators. This contributed to the decline in U.S. operations and substantial growth of the forest-products industry north of the border. This trend ended with the Trump administration and tougher trade negotiations.

Trump's performance in making progress in future trade deals will improve if all political and business sectors get behind him. So far he has accomplished much despite press and political opposition that have damaged his credibility, made him appear weak and undermined his ability to bring back fair trade to the art of free trade. Trump's accomplishments in returning manufacturing to the United States in less than two and a half years is a business miracle.

— Bill Mulligan, Clarkston, Wash.

In Washington's and Lincoln's times and prior to income tax in 1913, tariffs were an integral part of our national economy, continuing to be so until the

advent of supply-side "voodoo" economics during Reagan's administration.

China has long levied tariffs and additional taxes on our exported goods, and it does not permit foreign ownership of property. Why no discussion of its tariff gambit?

Japan has no natural resources. How does our trade partnership overcome this deficit to enable Japan to outproduce the United States on so many levels, from the onset of Reaganomics to the present, when it could not during World War II?

Media propaganda seems to be persuading us to export our jobs and import Third World misery. We are led to believe that foreign industrial colonization and illegal immigration are preferable to unions and a living wage. We must ask ourselves: Who does this scenario benefit and who owns much of the media? Do the names Bezos and Buffett sound familiar?

Americans have always committed themselves to leaving each succeeding generation better off. Why are we reversing this process by tearing down our moral fiber and family unit, leaving most in poverty while mounting an ever-burgeoning national debt?

The movie-making, football-playing skills of supply-side's originators did not deliver the free world. We must return to results-oriented, common-sense reality, demanding what belongs to us instead of relinquishing the bounty bestowed upon us at so much peril and sacrifice.

— Louis L. Boehm, Orchard Park, N.Y.

'A Contract Fulfilled'

I was glad to read Henry Howard's story about John Ivens American Legion Post 42 looking over the Grand Canyon Pioneer Cemetery (May). This brought to mind the many graves of Civil War veterans, North and South, around the country. I hope these men are remembered. Perhaps other posts can adopt these graves and provide care and maintenance.

— William Howard Sands, Oroville, Calif.

Blue Water vets

I read the article by Tom Philpott (Veterans Update, May) with great interest. The recent decision by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit is certainly welcomed by us "Blue Water vets." However, I believe the legal argument to determine if our service in the "territorial seas" is included as part of the Republic of Vietnam is totally irrelevant.

There are two basic facts that are not being mentioned by anyone. First, regardless of any boundaries on a map, river waters anywhere on the globe eventually flow into coastal waters. Second, all U.S. Navy ships operating in the coastal waters of Vietnam utilized onboard desalination systems to convert that coastal seawater for the crew to use for drinking, bathing and cooking.

The potential exposure to Agent Orange follows these two simple facts, and yet many politicians continue to deny benefits for 70,000 "Blue Water" sailors and their families.

— William Neeley, Cody, Wyo.

THE AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE WELCOMES YOUR OPINIONS

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Police and veterans, united in sacrifice

The topics of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), suicide and sacrifice are usually associated with veterans. The American Legion has done much to raise public awareness about the physical and mental costs that come with service.

There's another group, too, that is deeply affected by these issues: the men and women of our nation's law enforcement. Just like our military, they risk their lives for us every day they wear their uniforms. In 2018, more law-enforcement officers died by suicide than in the line of duty.

The American Legion's founders valued law enforcement so highly that they chose "maintain law and order" as the second principle of our constitution's preamble. Visit any police precinct and you'll likely find a higher percentage of veterans than in almost any other occupation.

As a retired lieutenant with the Fairfax County Police Department in Virginia, I am a staunch supporter of our nation's peace officers. So is The American Legion. This year, I have visited a number of posts that champion our first responders through financial assistance, award recognition and outstanding youth law cadet programs.

My generation remembers the turbulent '60s and '70s, when veterans – especially those who served in Vietnam – were treated with scorn. While the American public seems to have learned some lessons from that era, I fear we're seeing a revival of that same disrespect today, directed at law enforcement.

Nobody justifies bad police behavior any more than we would justify a war crime. But we must remember the 99 percent of first responders who do their jobs honorably and professionally. Consider that nearly 21,100 names are etched on the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Wall in Washington, D.C.

I appreciate President Trump's remarks at the 38th Annual National Peace Officers Memorial Service on May 15. "The men and women of law enforcement devote their lives to protecting our children, securing our streets and keeping our communities safe," he said. "Moms and dads can sleep soundly at night, kids can play with neighbors outside and grandparents can feel at peace in their homes because they know America's officers are the absolute best, and they're always on the beat."

Robert McKeithen, an Air Force veteran, served 24 years as an officer with the Biloxi, Miss., Police Department. Two months ago, he was gunned down outside the Lopez-Quave Public Safety Center.

Biloxi Police Chief John Miller called McKeithen "an unbelievably fine policeman," while describing his heroism during Hurricane Katrina. "Robert, with four other officers, was awarded the medal of valor for saving four special-needs children ... who undoubtedly would have perished. I tell you that because I want you to know the kind of man that he was – a fine and decent man, a great policeman, and he served the citizens of Biloxi well," Miller said.

Officer McKeithen, 58, planned to retire at the end of this year. His end of watch was May 5, 2019. He is survived by his wife, daughter, stepdaughter and two stepsons.

Sometimes there are just no words.



*National Commander
Brett P. Reistad*

MEMORANDA

BOYS NATION

American Legion Boys Nation will be July 19-27 in Arlington, Va. Follow elections, activities and other news online.

legion.org/boysnation

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JULIE MUHLE

When her father encouraged her to join American Legion Post 15 in Juneau, Wis., Julie Muhle knew little about the organization and its legacy of service. The more she learns, though, the more passionate she becomes about all things Legion.

In addition to serving as Post 15's adjutant, Muhle is chancellor of the Wisconsin American Legion College program. Training a new generation of leaders is her way of communicating the Legion's rich past while helping build for tomorrow.

"The inspiration to go out and recruit comes from the education we're working on," she says. "Offering Legion College courses – helping students learn what the Legion is about – is how we inspire people to want to go and talk more about that."

Watching her students grow in their enthusiasm for the Legion adds to Muhle's energy. "When I see everyone scribbling notes, I think, 'Hey, I've just taught them something new.' This is what the learning is all about."

Muhle and other Legion College instructors travel around the state to lead beginner, intermediate and advanced classes. Students give up a Sunday to attend. "That's dedication," she says. "They take the information back to their posts and implement it. They learn a lot, as I have."

– Henry Howard

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MILITARY JOB Cryptoanalyst

AMERICAN LEGION POST Post 15, Juneau, Wis.

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- County commander (2015-2017)
- National American Legion College graduate (2014)
- Post commander (2012-2015)
- Post adjutant (2011-present)

Watch an interview of Julie Muhle online:

 legion.org/magazine

See an archive of past interviews:

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"Success would be ... growing membership, educating our members and developing future leaders."



Photo by Narayan Mahon

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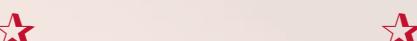
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Ban on transgender troops



SUPPORT

Rep. Bradley Byrne, R-Ala.

■ Byrne serves on the House Committee on Armed Services.



OPPOSE

Rep. Jackie Speier, D-Calif.

■ Speier is chairwoman of the House Armed Services Military Personnel Subcommittee.

The U.S. military sets the standard throughout the world for excellence. That's because we have the best people who choose to sacrifice to defend our country.

Thousands of patriotic Americans have chosen to put country above self and enter military service. Yet many have been turned away because they do not meet the requirements. In fact, over 70 percent of military-age Americans do not meet the necessary requirements and are ineligible for service. Bad vision, asthma, food allergies, dental issues, depression, hearing loss and other common issues can all disqualify someone from service.

Given the rigorous requirements needed to serve in the military, I've been shocked to see the outrage from some regarding the Pentagon's decision declaring certain individuals with gender dysphoria ineligible for service. Why should this be different from other conditions that limit someone's ability to serve?

Our military's top mission is to protect the United States and defeat those who wish us harm. Every decision made about who can serve in its ranks should be focused on getting the job done, protecting the homeland and winning the fight.

We should be proud that our nation can build such a capable fighting force based off volunteer service. That said, we should not and cannot make special accommodations for anyone simply because of their willingness to serve.

We should all support the commander in chief using his authority to ensure that our military remains the world's strongest, most capable fighting force. That requires having the highest standards of service and never backing away from those standards.

Most of us have heard the axiom "Why fix what isn't broken?" On April 12, the Trump administration decided to ignore this truism and force implementation of its discriminatory and un-American transgender military-service ban.

All five military service chiefs have said that open transgender service has worked well. There have been no problems with unit cohesion, morale or readiness. So why does the Trump administration want to administer a ban that

will cost the military thousands of potential recruits while stigmatizing the more than 15,000 transgender servicemembers already serving? The ban also negates effective medical treatment by forcing those who have successfully transitioned genders and are stable to serve in their birth genders. This is cruel and wrong.

On Feb. 27, the first transgender troops to testify openly before Congress appeared before the Military Personnel Subcommittee and bravely shared their experiences despite the president's political attacks. I was deeply touched by their patriotism and exceptional service, which is why I'm working with members from both sides of the aisle and chambers to protect their rights.

Earlier this year, I introduced a bipartisan, bicameral bill to require the military to evaluate transgender servicemembers solely in terms of their ability to meet objective standards. Last month, the House overwhelmingly passed a resolution expressing support for transgender troops. And in the upcoming National Defense Authorization Act, we will work to pass further protections. Our military heroes deserve the same rights and considerations that they defend on the battlefield.

CONTACT YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS

The Honorable (name), U.S. Senate, Washington, DC 20510 • Phone: (202) 224-3121

The Honorable (name), U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC 20515 • Phone: (202) 225-3121

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— J. Fitzgerald, VA



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Lower your risk for a stroke

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reminds us that a healthy diet, healthy weight, healthy activities and healthy choices all help prevent stroke.

■ **DIET** Since high cholesterol and high blood pressure increase your risk of having a stroke, the CDC advises eating foods low in saturated fat, trans fat and cholesterol. Instead, choose fruits, vegetables and foods high in fiber, and watch your salt intake.

■ **WEIGHT** Being overweight or obese also increases the risk for stroke. To determine whether your weight is in a healthy range, doctors often calculate a person's body mass index (BMI). If you know your weight and height, you can calculate your BMI at cdc.gov/healthyweight/assessing/index.html.

■ **ACTIVITIES** Physical activity can help you stay at a healthy weight and lower your cholesterol and blood pressure levels, the CDC states. "For adults, the Surgeon General recommends two hours and 30 minutes of moderate-intensity aerobic physical activity, such as a brisk walk, each week."

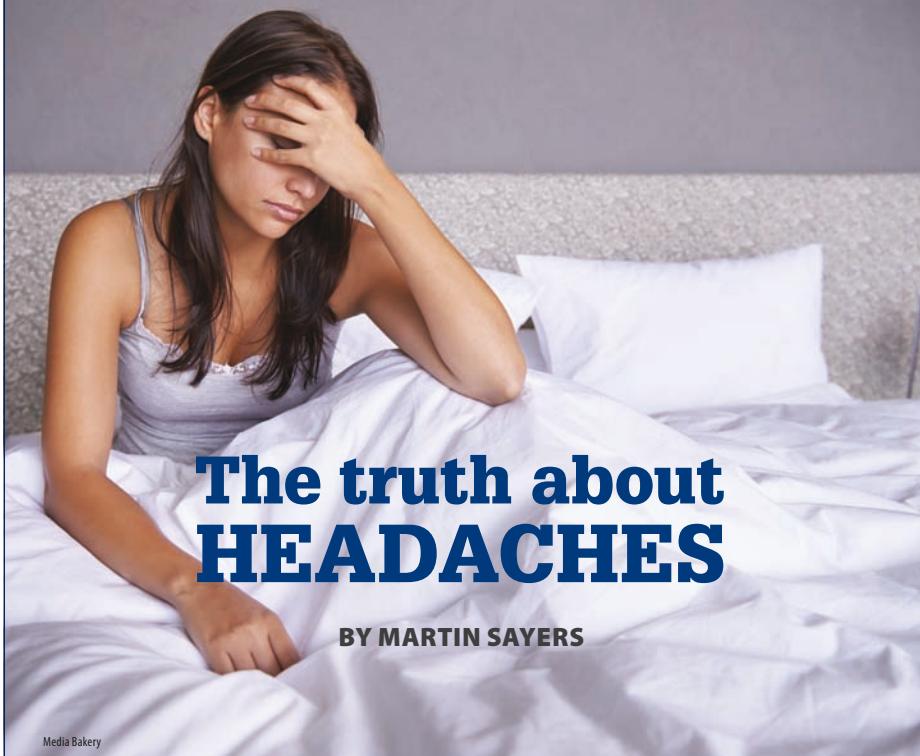
■ **HEALTHY CHOICES** Cigarette smoking greatly increases a person's chances of having a stroke," the CDC points out. "If you don't smoke, don't start. If you do, quitting will lower your risk for stroke." Drinking too much alcohol, too, can raise your blood pressure. According to the CDC, men should have no more than two drinks per day, and women one.

 cdc.gov/stroke



Media Bakery

Living Well is designed to provide general information. It is not intended to be, nor is it, medical advice. Readers should consult their physicians when they have health problems.



The truth about HEADACHES

BY MARTIN SAYERS

Media Bakery

Nearly everyone gets headaches, and around 15 percent of the population suffers from them regularly. They can vary in severity, from a dull pain that almost goes unnoticed to head-splitting episodes of incapacitating intensity.

What exactly are headaches, though? Why do they occur, and what can be done to prevent them?

TYPES The type of headaches that most people suffer from is the primary headache, which means not caused by any other condition. A secondary headache is the result of underlying disease or illness.

The most common types of primary headaches are tension, migraine and cluster. Yet they differ in pattern, location, onset, duration and responses to therapy.

Headache expert Gary Rogg, an internal medicine physician and co-founder of Westchester Medical Center Headache Specialists at Westchester Medical Center in Valhalla, N.Y., explains each type:

■ *Tension headaches* are characterized by pain or discomfort in the head, scalp or neck, and they are often associated with muscle tightness – "often described as a band squeezing the head on both sides," Rogg says. They are not accompanied by nausea or vomiting, and the duration can vary from 30 minutes to seven days.

■ *Migraine headaches* usually affect half of the head and are characterized by pain, nausea and visual changes, Rogg says. They may be accompanied by light and sound sensitivity and vomiting. Migraine headaches can last four to 72 hours.

■ *Cluster headaches* occur in and around one eye "and can be associated with redness of the eye, tearing and congestion," Rogg says. Attacks come in clusters, and timing can vary from one every other day to eight or more in a day, typically with headache-free periods between outbreaks."

See **HEADACHES** on page 16

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* Fingersticks are required for treatment decisions when you see Check Blood Glucose symbol, when symptoms do not match system readings, when you suspect readings may be inaccurate, or when you experience symptoms that may be due to high or low blood glucose.

REFERENCES: 1. FreeStyle Libre 14 day User's Manual. 2. Data on file. Abbott Diabetes Care.

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CONTRAINDICATIONS: Remove the sensor before MRI, CT scan, X-ray, or diathermy treatment.

WARNINGS/LIMITATIONS: Do not ignore symptoms that may be due to low or high blood glucose, hypoglycemic unawareness, or dehydration.

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Media Bakery

Brain scans key to Alzheimer's detection, treatment

Brain scans can improve diagnosis and management of Alzheimer's disease, HealthDay reports, citing a new study of more than 11,000 Medicare beneficiaries with "mild thinking impairment or dementia."

The study was published in *JAMA: The Journal of the American Medical Association*.

Researchers assessed the use of PET scans to identify Alzheimer's-related amyloid plaques in the brain, according to HealthDay. Use of those scans changed the diagnosis of the cause of mental impairment in more than one-third of the study's participants, as well as which medicines were prescribed, how the disease/condition was managed, and the sort of counseling provided.

"These results present highly credible, large-scale evidence that amyloid PET imaging can be a powerful tool to improve the accuracy of Alzheimer's diagnosis and lead to better medical management, especially in difficult-to-diagnose cases," said Maria Carrillo, the study's co-author.

The findings are considered important because while there is no cure for Alzheimer's, "early diagnosis means that patients can receive treatment to manage symptoms and be directed to clinical trials for new drugs," she added. Early diagnosis also allows families to make plans and adjustments in at-home safety, caregiving, and legal and financial matters.

HEADACHES *continued from page 14*

CAUSES Primary headaches are caused by overactive pain-sensitive structures in the head and neck nerves, muscles and blood vessels. The release of certain chemicals in the brain can also trigger them. This is particularly true of migraines, for which triggers can include chocolate, caffeine, aspartame (a sweetener found in diet sodas, chewing gum, breakfast cereal and other foodstuffs), alcohol and cheese.

Changing sleep patterns can be another culprit, as waking and going to sleep at different times can have a dramatic effect on the hypothalamus – the area of the brain responsible for balancing hormones – and thus trigger a headache. This is why people often complain of "weekend headaches," which strike because they have changed from their regular working-day sleep routine and either gone to bed or gotten up later, or both.

PREVENTION AND TREATMENT Headache avoidance is all about consistency. So try to keep to regular meal times, foods and sleep patterns. Avoid any headache triggers you know of, as well as stress and anxiety.

When you do get a headache, it can usually be treated by over-the-counter medications such as acetaminophen or aspirin, which can be combined with anti-nausea medication if you also feel sick.

For more serious headaches, you may need to combine medication with lying in a darkened room until the pain has passed. There is also an herbal remedy made from a plant called feverfew, which several studies suggest may be beneficial in easing headache symptoms.

Most headaches are benign and will soon wear off. But sometimes they can indicate a more serious health condition. Consider seeing a medical professional if you experience any of the following:

- Weakness, altered speech and confusion.
- Headache onset is abrupt, sudden and new.
- Headaches in midlife, over the age of 50.
- Difference in terms of headache length or severity.
- Headaches occurring when you cough or bend over.

Martin Sayers is a freelance writer living in Cambridge, England. He specializes in health and nutrition issues.



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TO STRENGTHEN A NATION / THE AMERICAN LEGION STORY

PART 11

"This publication shall be ... the torch, the beacon light thrown into our hands by the Americans who fell in battle, and held as a unique and living monument to that other legion which did not come back."

G.P. Putnam, chairman of the American Legion Publication Committee, St. Louis Caucus, May 10, 1919

A UNIQUE AND LIVING MONUMENT

With a laudatory Western Union cablegram from Gen. John Pershing on its cover, the first issue of *The American Legion Weekly* was a simple but varied affair, with articles about the organization's origins, its quick growth, the coming convention in Minneapolis, the popularity of boxing, the possibilities of trans-Atlantic flight and a World Series prediction from former New York Giants pitcher Christy Mathewson.

Launched 100 years ago, it began as a house organ but evolved into a general-interest publication that has served readers a kaleidoscope of war stories, history,



health, humor, interviews and images that have made "the magazine for a strong America" the No. 1

best-read publication in the United States.

This, the 1,480th issue, continues in that tradition.



JULY 4, 1919 Issue 1, No. 1 of *The American Legion Weekly* is published. The introductory column is written by Gen. John Pershing. George A. White, one of the four officers who met with Theodore Roosevelt Jr. in January to begin plans for the organization, is identified as founder of the publication. "The Legion is destined to be of tremendous value in fostering the ideals and purposes for which we fought," Pershing writes in the inaugural issue.

THE FOLIOS

The magazine has had three different names and many different mastheads in the past century.



The American Legion Weekly
(July 4, 1919 to June 18, 1926)



The American Legion Monthly
(July 1926 to June 1936)



The American Legion Magazine
(July 1936 to present)



NOV. 10, 1919 Following the decision to name Indianapolis the permanent home of the national organization, American Legion National Adjutant Lemuel Bolles announces that "as soon as practical" the American Legion Weekly Publishing Corp. will "also have headquarters at Indianapolis." The magazine office, however, will remain based in New York City until 1976.

HAROLD ROSS, FOUNDER OF THE NEW YORKER



A high school dropout who began working for major daily newspapers in the West as a teenager, Pvt. Harold Ross found himself in the middle of the Great War with the Army's 8th Engineers Railway Regiment and as a reporter for *Stars & Stripes*. He was in Paris in March 1919 and participated in the formative caucus of the organization. Following the war, Ross started *The Home Sector*, a weekly publication for veterans

coming home from France. Following that, he was hired as editor of *The American Legion Weekly*, then based in New York City. There, Ross and his journalist wife, Jane C. Grant of *The New York Times*, ran in the nation's highest literary circles.

He stayed with *The American Legion Weekly* until late 1924 when he and his wife collaborated to launch *The New Yorker* on Feb. 21, 1925, which, according to some accounts, was planned in the offices of *The American Legion Weekly*. Ross quickly became a national magazine icon. He died of cancer in 1951 at the age of 59.

"No one can lay claim to originating the idea of a veterans' association because it was a consensus among the men of the armed forces of our nation ... It was the result of what might be called the 'spontaneous opinion' ... caused by a fusing together in a common bond of the various elements of the service, just as spontaneous combustion is brought about by the joint action of certain chemical elements."

George S. Wheat, "The Birth of the Legion," 1919, G.P. Putnam's Sons

GEORGE SEAY WHEAT

Navy Lt. George S. Wheat, a former reporter for *The New York Herald* and future vice president of United Aircraft Corp., authored the first definitive book about The American Legion. An organizer of the Paris Caucus that formed the organization in March 1919, he had firsthand knowledge of the origins. In the first year of *The American Legion Weekly*, Wheat wrote colorful feature stories on the merchant mariners who confronted German U-boats, spy hunters of the Great War, perils of an evolving U.S. Navy that faced enemy pressure on turbulent seas, supernatural inspirations of wartime espionage and other topics.

His 1919 book "The Story of The American Legion" documented the anecdote of Lt. Col. Theodore Roosevelt Jr.'s exchange with Sgt. William Patterson at an Army hospital, which is credited as the inspiration behind the creation of the organization. After the war, Wheat started a public relations agency in New York and applied his skills with the language and marketing at United until his death on Dec. 25, 1937, at the age of 51.

MARQUIS JAMES, AKA 'QUID'



An Army captain in World War I, former newspaper writer Marquis James was an early director of the national American Legion Publicity Committee and a prolific staff writer for *The American Legion Weekly* and *Monthly* between 1923 and 1932. His 1924 "A History of The American Legion" remains a seminal book about the early organization. Later a contributing writer to *The New Yorker*, started by his former *American Legion Weekly* colleague Harold Ross, James wrote under the pseudonym

"Quid." He received two Pulitzer prizes, one in 1930 for his biography of Sam Houston and another in 1938 for "The Life of Andrew Jackson, 2 Volumes."

LEARN MORE ONLINE: The American Legion's digital archives house searchable issues of *The American Legion Magazine* from 1919 to 2016, as well as other National Headquarters publications. archive.legion.org

FAMOUS CONTRIBUTORS

Robert Heinlein, science-fiction author, aeronautical engineer and retired naval officer – "Rebellion on the Moon" (December 1949)

Zora Neale Hurston, African-American novelist and anthropologist – "I Saw Negro Votes Peddled" (November 1950), "Why the Negro Won't Buy Communism" (June 1951)

Gen. Douglas MacArthur, "The Citizen Soldier" (January 1952)

Paul Harvey, radio broadcaster, "It Happened in Gastonia" (June 1962)

Isaac Asimov, science-fiction author and biochemist, "What Can We Expect of the Moon?" (March 1965), "Farewell to Youth" (December 1974), "Life on a Space Settlement" (September 1980), "The Year 2000 ... and Beyond" (January 1985), "Ravages of Nature" (February 1987)

Ivan Doig, author and novelist, "The Mapping of America" (December 1978)

Ronald Reagan, U.S. president and World War II Army Air Forces veteran, "A Grateful Nation Remembers" (November 1983)

Alexander Haig, secretary of state, White House chief of staff and Korean War veteran, "Balancing the NATO Triad" (March 1981)

J. Edgar Hoover, "Backing Up the FBI" (June 1944), "God and Country – or Communism?" (November 1957), "Discipline or Barbarism" (September 1958)

Rear Adm. Jeremiah Denton, former U.S. senator and Vietnam War POW, "Putting Vietnam in Perspective" (March 1980)

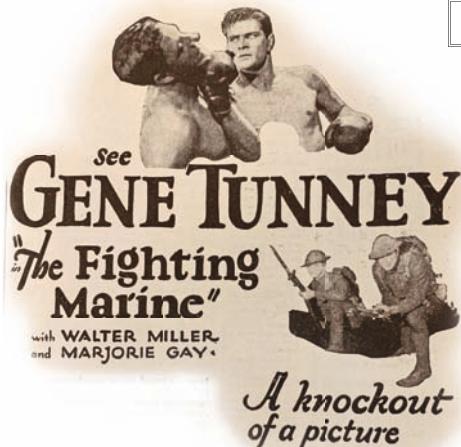
Vice Adm. James Stockdale, "What is Patriotism?" (July 1980)

Lawrence Welk, musician, bandleader and television show host, "Morality is Not a Fad" (December 1980)

Stephen Ambrose, author and historian, "The World War II Generation" (September 1995), "GI Joe: Person of the 20th Century" (September 2001)



TO STRENGTHEN A NATION / THE AMERICAN LEGION STORY



SEPTEMBER 1926

The American Legion Monthly advertises "The Fighting Marine," a film starring heavyweight boxing champ and American Legion member Gene Tunney.

MAY 1950 *The American Legion Magazine* publishes a 16-page, point-by-point objection to the Hoover Commission argument to reduce federal support of veterans – including cutting 16,000 hospital beds in a construction program already underway – and restrict VA health care only to those who came home with service-connected disabilities. The report becomes the Legion's official position on the Hoover Commission and its Citizens Committee, which was working to enact cost-cutting measures through Congress and executive orders. The American Legion launches a nationwide campaign to protect veterans benefits and health care from the commission's intention to "economize."

The campaign is in full swing and making national headlines from Washington to rural America when, on June 25, at 4 a.m. Korean time, communist forces cross the 38th Parallel and invade the Republic of Korea.

Within days of the invasion, U.S. military forces, under the flag of the United Nations, are back at war, and the national debate over cutting services for veterans is tabled for another time.

WHAT IT'S ALL ABOUT
This is an analysis of the Hoover Commission's recommendations, insofar as these recommendations deal with the three fields of giving Legionnaires in the field a more comprehensive view of the effect such recommendations would have on the veteran population.

Cast of Characters

The Hoover Commission It submitted 19 different reports for the reorganization of the Government bureaus.

The American Legion Openly opposes all or part of four of the 19 reports of the Hoover Commission, these four involving veterans' affairs. Finds itself in general agreement with all other major veterans organizations, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Disabled American Veterans, the Amvets, etc.

Citizens Committee for the Hoover Report A volunteer organization which openly endorses all 19 Hoover reports; is organized for the sole purpose of seeing the entire report through the Congress; sponsors favorable propaganda for the reports.

The U.S. Junior Chamber of Commerce, (Jaycees) Officially endorses all 19 reports; actively sponsors favorable propaganda urging enactment of entire Hoover Report.

Miscellaneous Individuals and Agencies Some experts on subjects touched by Hoover Report, some not. Some emotionally involved, some politically involved.

Among the letters received ... are several from disabled soldiers, expressing gratitude to The American Legion for taking up their cause. They were discouraged and disconsolate, feeling that they had been forgotten by a once grateful public. These letters are truly pathetic. The point they raise is pathetically true. The American public is grateful and patriotic and just. But it forgets easily in such matters.

"*Lest They Forget*" (editorial), Oct. 10, 1919

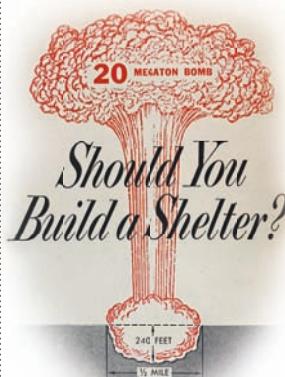


Published just three weeks after the Pearl Harbor attack, the January 1942 *American Legion Magazine* calls for all members of the organization to "give our utmost to our beloved country." National Commander Lynn Stambaugh reports that he has assured President Franklin D. Roosevelt that the Legion stands ready to serve under the direction of civil and military authorities.



One instant he was still, cowering, the next he exploded out of his corner. I grabbed for the knife, but before I touched it, he was on me. There was a whip of tentacles past the face plate. A stream of expelled water hit me with fire-hose force hurling me backward over the chest. I caught one glimpse of him shooting through the door. He completely filled the opening. There was a sharp, scraping drag at the air line, then I was alone.

Virgil Burford, "*I've Tangled With the Octopus*" (November 1950)



Many Americans, financially able to shelterize, are not doing so because they say they do not wish to face the world 'after the bomb.' Others are not acting because they feel the Defense Department's statement, 'such attack is highly unlikely,' is reassurance enough. Most Americans, in the money or not, are doing nothing.

Dale Shaw, "*Should You Build a Shelter?*" (June 1962)

When asked how she felt as a wife and mother holding down a career in the military, Kathy responded, "I just consider myself a working mother, much like any other woman who goes to an office or works in a supermarket. The only difference is I wear combat boots!"

"*In Arms, the Ms. Gains Equality*" (March 1977)





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Los Angeles, CA



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TO STRENGTHEN A NATION / THE AMERICAN LEGION STORY

Agent Orange, specifically its dioxin contaminants, and the government's resolution of the problem, go directly to the heart of every American's trust – or lack thereof – in this land's values and institutions. It is a focal point of anger for the Vietnam veteran, and of continuing dismay for Americans who see an unpopular war that, for the participants, refuses to end. It follows, then, that resolving the Agent Orange controversy is each Legionnaire's concern.

*From "Agent Orange: Time Bomb ... or Dud?"
(third in a three-part series, March 1982)*



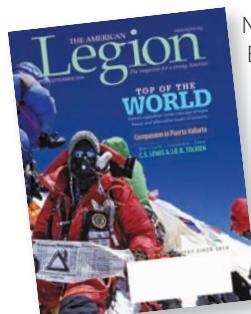
Because these new-style terrorists care little about being judged in the court of world opinion, they often aim to inflict as much carnage as possible. They select their targets with little regard for whether the victims will be professional soldiers (like those Americans killed by the truck bomb in Saudi Arabia), or defenseless children ... the new-style terrorism has no single defining root. And we are left with the disturbing answer suggested by the Senate panel's conclusion: that it's not a question of if, but of when.

Susan Katz Keating, "We Lost New York Today" (June 1997)

Going town to town, door to door, asking tough, candid questions of VA directors, staff, patients and veterans in the community, I have gained a firsthand perspective on the status of VA health care. It is not a regional problem. It is a national crisis.

Along the way, I have described my findings to the media. Reporters have been shocked. That's because much of the public thinks all veterans get all their health care for free. I have elevated this issue among veterans themselves. I also have made it clear that if we want change – if we believe, as The American Legion does, that this is a system worth saving – veterans must act now. No one else is going to solve the problem for us. We cannot look the other way.

*American Legion National Commander Ronald F. Conley,
"A System Worth Saving: The State of VA Health Care in America" (May 2003)*



Navy veteran Mike Fairman reached the summit of Mount Everest at 11 a.m. May 19, 2016, having climbed from a depth so low it nearly killed him. He returned home from war a half-dozen years ago with a headful of post-traumatic stress that triggered two suicide attempts on the same alcohol-fueled night. He spent three days in a hospital trying to reconcile what happened to convert his combat exposure as a corpsman with the 3/25 Marines in Afghanistan into a decision to end it all in Ohio

Fairman's ascent to the top of Everest was his tribute to the "silently fallen," veterans he has known who have

committed suicide. The flag he carried to the summit bore their names. Beneath his parka, Fairman's tattooed arm displays the numbers 22 (veteran suicides a day), 60-80 (minutes between each), 8,000 (veteran suicides a year) and minus-1 ("That's me," he says).

"The Mind Field: Alternative Routes of Recovery" (September 2016)

RICHARD SEELYE JONES



His first role was executive secretary for the American Legion Endowment Committee, which raised \$5 million in the mid-1920s to finance veterans

assistance and child-welfare programs. Much of his early work in the magazine centered on the campaign and evolved to take up such issues as the need to establish a central federal agency to handle veterans health care, which became the Veterans Administration. In 1946, Jones penned "A History of The American Legion," which chronicled the organization's story through that point.

ROBERT B. PITKIN



R.B. Pitkin's bylines in *The American Legion Magazine* reach back to the 1940s. He wrote about the GI Bill, military history, natural disasters and national

conventions during his time at the magazine, which extended more than 30 years. His final magazine article was a November 1975 profile of newly elected American Legion National Commander Harry G. Wiles of Kansas. Pitkin was the son of Dr. Walter B. Pitkin, Columbia University journalism professor and author.

DANIEL S. WHEELER



A Navy veteran, Wheeler came to *The American Legion Magazine* in 1979 and within two years was editor. He wrote about naval history, New

Guinea, flag protection and other topics. Having famously said that he once "ran the magazine out of one drawer," Wheeler later led the organization's digital media evolution – rebuilding the national website, introducing social media and other developments – as executive director of National Headquarters in Indianapolis. In October 2008, he was appointed to serve as national adjutant of The American Legion.

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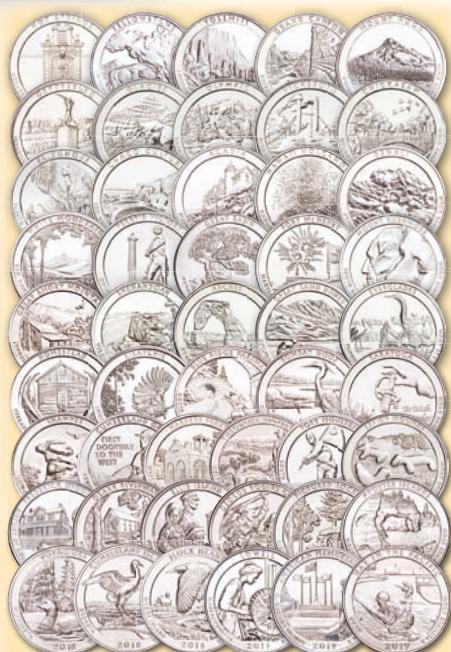
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TO STRENGTHEN A NATION / THE AMERICAN LEGION STORY

Bursts and Duds

The magazine's first three decades included a page called "Bursts and Duds," full of reader jokes and anecdotes. During World War II, it made way for "Wally's Page," featuring strips by Abian "Wally" Wallgren, the famous AEF cartoonist. "Bursts and Duds" reappeared in the form of "Parting Shots" in 1946, which continues today.

SEVERAL OFFICERS and privates returning in a bus late one evening from the city were halted at the gate of camp by an M.P. with the familiar, "All enlisted men out."

Sam, a private on the front seat, sat still. "What's the matter with you, boy, why don't you get out?" demanded the M.P. "Well, I'm not an enlisted man," replied Sam, "I was drafted." – Aug. 22, 1919

LATE ARRIVAL: "What's the score?" Early Arrival: "Nothing to nothing." L.A.: "Must be a good game, huh?" E.A.: "Dunno. Ain't started yet." – Oct. 8, 1920

PRIVATE JACKSON had long been a thorn in the side of the mess sergeant, but at last they got together in an amicable what-are-you-going-to-do argument.

"Where you going after the war, Jack?" inquired the sarge.

"I don't know exactly," replied the long sufferer. "But one thing I know. I'm going somewhere where they don't call prunes fruit." – Oct. 14, 1921

LEGIONNAIRE Leon Schwarz of Mobile, Ala., is telling one about a recent department convention at which a youth from Alabama Boys State was on the program for a speech. The boy made a fine, original address with a most acceptable delivery. When he finished, a Legionnaire congressman turned to several of his buddies and said, "I'm going to get that boy to write my speeches."

"Good!" exclaimed a comrade. "And get him to deliver 'em too." – November 1939

LEGIONNAIRE Gordon Needham of Gus Zoellner Post 36, Kellogg, Idaho, says that while he was in the veterans' hospital at Walla Walla he became very friendly with a comrade, then well on the way to recovery.

The veteran confided to Needham that he was about to be married; in fact his bride-to-be would take him away from the hospital.

The day of discharge arrived and with it came the lady. She was all bubbling over with plans for the future. "We'll get along all right," she told a circle of well wishers. "He has a small ranch and has made application for \$30 a month Government constipation." – February 1942

NICK SCUTTI of Atlantic City (New Jersey) Post says he saw this sign in a barber shop: Army Haircuts Repaired. – March 1943



Parting Shots

ADVICE TO THE LADIES: One way for a girl to whip up a boy's interest is to give him a good eye-lashing. – October 1963

THE MIXED-UP HUSBAND went to see a marriage counselor. "My wife has a very bad habit," he said. "She stays up until one and two o'clock in the morning and I can't break her of it."

"What is she doing all that time?" asked the advisor.

"Waiting for me to come home." – April 1964

WHY AREN'T plumbers' assistants called drainees? – July 1969

A HIPPIE doesn't ask much from life, just room and beard. – June 1972



Wow! A Simple to Use Computer Designed Especially for Seniors!

Easy to read. Easy to see. Easy to use. Just plug it in!



"I love this computer! It is easy to read and to use! I get photo updates from my children and grandchildren all the time."

— Janet F.

Have you ever said to yourself “I’d love to get a computer, if only I could figure out how to use it.” Well, you’re not alone. Computers were supposed to make our lives simpler, but they’ve gotten so complicated that they are not worth the trouble. With all of the “pointing and clicking” and “dragging and dropping” you’re lucky if you can figure out where you are. Plus, you are constantly worrying about viruses and freeze-ups. If this sounds familiar, we have great news for you. There is finally a computer that’s designed for simplicity and ease of use. It’s the WOW Computer, and it was designed with you in mind. This computer is easy-to-use, worry-free and literally puts the world at

your fingertips. From the moment you open the box, you’ll realize how different the WOW Computer is. The components are all connected; all you do is plug it into an outlet and your high-speed Internet connection. Then you’ll see the screen – it’s now 22 inches. This is a completely new touch screen system, without the cluttered look of the normal computer screen. The “buttons” on the screen are easy to see and easy to understand. All you do is touch one of them, from the Web, Email, Calendar to Games– you name it... and a new screen opens up. It’s so easy to use you won’t have to ask your children or grandchildren for help. Until now, the very people who could benefit most from E-mail and the Internet are the ones that have had the hardest time accessing it. Now, thanks to the WOW Computer, countless older Americans are discovering the wonderful world of the Internet every day. Isn’t it time

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TO STRENGTHEN A NATION / THE AMERICAN LEGION STORY

LORE OF THE LEGION

STORY: JEFF STOFFER
ART: GARY MARTIN
COLOR: MARCUS ESKOW



INTELLIGENT COURAGE, FIGHTING INSTINCT AND COOPERATION ARE SOME THINGS WHICH I BELIEVE ARE VISIBLY EXPRESSED IN OUR ATHLETIC GAMES.

HE RECOMMENDS THAT THE AMERICAN LEGION LAUNCH A BASEBALL PROGRAM TO IMPROVE FITNESS AND DISCIPLINE,

PROMOTE GOOD CITIZENSHIP AND BETTER PREPARE YOUNG PEOPLE FOR MILITARY SERVICE.

BIG 10 CONFERENCE COMMISSIONER JOHN L. GRIFFITH, A FORMER OFFICER IN THE GREAT WAR, SPEAKS BEFORE THE 1925 AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF SOUTH DAKOTA SUMMER CONVENTION IN MILBANK, S.D.

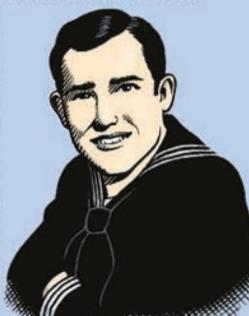
AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL WAS APPROVED AS A NATIONAL PROGRAM, AND IN 1926, YONKERS, N.Y., DEFEATED POCATELLO, IDAHO, FOR THE FIRST WORLD SERIES TITLE.



AMONG THE PLAYERS TO HONE THEIR SKILLS ON AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL FIELDS WERE SLUGGER TED WILLIAMS OF CALIFORNIA, STAR CATCHER YOGI BERRA OF MISSOURI, AND PITCHING PHENOMENON BOB FELLER OF IOWA.

EACH OF THOSE FUTURE BASEBALL HALL OF FAMERS STEPPED AWAY FROM THE GAME TO SERVE IN WORLD WAR II.

BERRA, A SAILOR, FIRED ON GERMAN POSITIONS IN THE 1944 INVASION OF NORMANDY, FRANCE.



WILLIAMS SERVED IN THE NAVY AND MARINE CORPS IN WORLD WAR II AND THE KOREAN WAR.

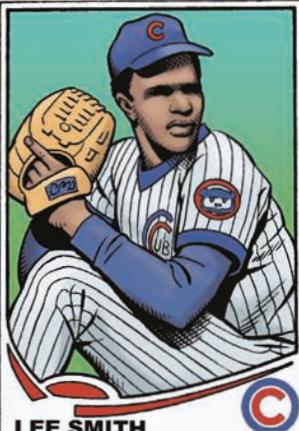
FELLER LEFT A \$100,000-PER-YEAR PRO CONTRACT TO ENLIST IN THE NAVY AFTER THE PEARL HARBOR ATTACK.



UPON INDUCTION INTO THE NATIONAL BASEBALL HALL OF FAME IN 1962, FELLER MADE A PREDICTION: "I MAY HAVE BEEN THE FIRST LEGION BASEBALL GRADUATE IN THE HALL OF FAME, BUT I WON'T BE THE LAST."

OTHER FUTURE BASEBALL HALL OF FAMERS AND AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL ALUMNI WHO SERVED DURING WARTIME INCLUDED WARREN SPAHN, STAN MUSIAL AND WHITEY HERZOG.

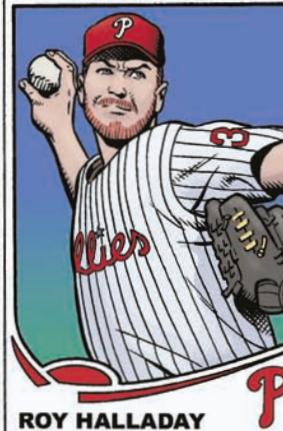
IN JULY 2019, FOUR MORE AMERICAN LEGION ALUMNI ARE ENSHRINED IN COOPERSTOWN, BRINGING THE TOTAL TO 81.



LEE SMITH



HAROLD BAINES



ROY HALLADAY



MIKE MUSSINA

FOR EACH OF THEM, AND THOUSANDS OF OTHERS WHO MADE THEIR WAY TO THE MAJORS THROUGH AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL, THERE WAS MORE TO THE GAME THAN HITTING, CATCHING AND THROWING. THERE WAS, AND STILL IS, CITIZENSHIP THROUGH SPORTSMANSHIP.

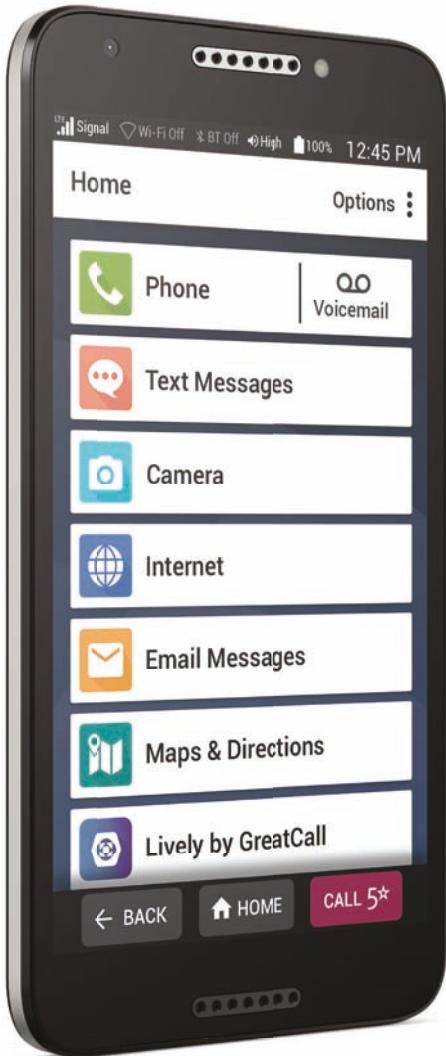
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LEGACY RUN '19



Photos by Justin L. Stewart

This year's ride will make stops in seven states, engaging communities and raising money for the Legion's Legacy Scholarship Fund along the way.

For five straight years, the American Legion Legacy Run has raised more than \$1 million for scholarships for children of fallen U.S. troops and, more recently, the children of disabled veterans. If that trend holds, expect another \$1 million or more to be donated during the Legion's 101st National Convention in Indianapolis.

Since surpassing \$1 million raised in 2014, the Legion Riders have collected record-breaking donations in three of the past four Legacy Runs, capped by an all-time record \$1.3 million in 2018.

This year's Legacy Run will leave Florida on Aug. 18 and arrive in Indianapolis on Aug. 22. After departing from Kansas the previous two years, the ride will start off at American Legion Post 347 in Lady Lake, Fla. the largest Legion post in the world, with more than 6,700 members.

Riders will make stops in Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, Virginia and Kentucky before ending up at Kenneth N. Dowden Wayne Post 64 in Indianapolis. The route will include stops at various American Legion posts, wreath-

laying ceremonies and a visit to Shelby, N.C., for an afternoon parade and visit to the American Legion World Series.

"We wanted to go through some memorable spots," said Legacy Run Chief Road Captain Bob Sussan, chairman of the American Legion Riders National Advisory Committee. "We're trying to bring some history into it, and at the same time involve the communities they travel through and continue to make it veteran-centric."

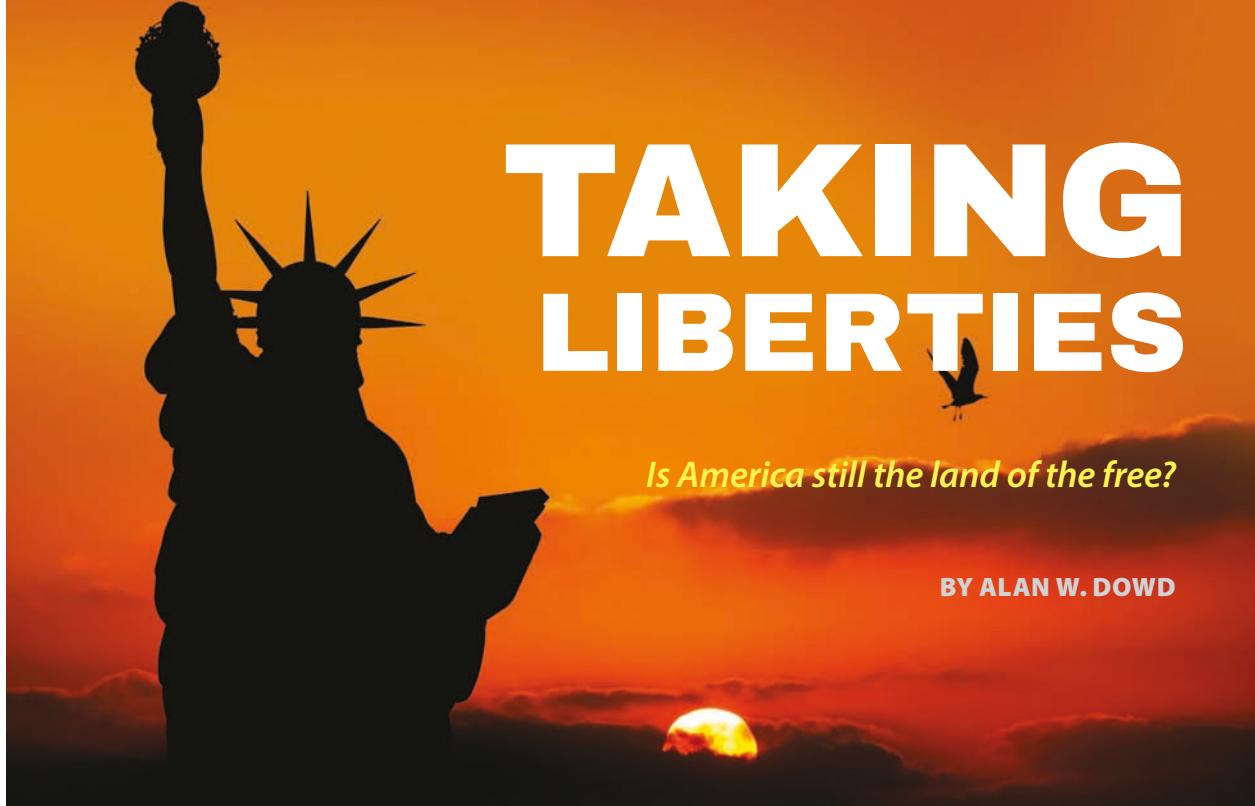
The Legacy Run raises money for the American Legion Legacy Scholarship Fund, which provides college assistance for children of servicemembers killed on active duty on or after 9/11, as well as children of post-9/11 veterans with a combined VA disability rating of 50 percent or higher.

— Steven B. Brooks

Go online for registration information and more about this year's Legacy Run:

legion.org/riders/legacyrun





TAKING LIBERTIES

Is America still the land of the free?

BY ALAN W. DOWD

The natural progress of things is for liberty to yield, and government to gain ground.”

Thomas Jefferson made that observation in 1788, when America’s experiment in individual liberty and limited government was new.

America has changed in many ways since Jefferson warned about the fragility of freedom and relentlessness of government – some for the better, some for the worse. Eradication of slavery, expansion of the franchise to Americans regardless of gender or race, and securing of civil rights for all undeniably advanced the cause of liberty. But if there was ever proof of the prescience of Jefferson’s observation, it is today’s America. As government gained ground in recent decades, liberty has lost ground.

LAND OF THE (SORT OF) FREE We call our nation “the land of the free.” This is where the Pilgrims fled to find religious and political freedom, where the founders drafted charters of government declaring our right to “life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness” and securing “the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity,” where the “Don’t Tread on Me” flag once waved – and still does in places.

According to a number of measurements of freedom, however, the United States of 2019 is not exactly the land of the free.

On the Human Freedom Index – a broad-based measure of individual freedom factoring in the rule of law, freedom of movement, freedom of religion, freedom of assembly, freedom of expression, size of government, property rights, freedom to trade, labor-market freedom and economic freedom – the

United States ranks just 17th. America trails the likes of Sweden, Norway, Finland, Switzerland, the Netherlands and Germany – countries not generally considered bastions of liberty.

On the International Property Rights Index, the United States ranks 14th. On the Heritage Foundation’s Index of Economic Freedom, it ranks 12th (down from fourth in 1999).

The United States is considered “free” on the Freedom House survey of political freedom, but registers a lower score than Canada and Costa Rica, Slovakia and Slovenia, France and Finland.

Together, these rankings paint a portrait of an America that is not as free as it once was. The decline is largely a function of government expansion.

“As government expands, liberty contracts,” President Ronald Reagan observed, echoing Jefferson. “Man is not free unless government is limited. There’s a clear cause and effect here that is as neat and predictable as a law of physics.”

REGULATED STATES OF AMERICA Reagan wasn’t saying there’s no need for government. Government is essential to protect life and property, to carry out justice, to maintain law and order, to deter and defeat enemies abroad – all so individuals might engage in what Jefferson called the “pursuit of happiness.” Reagan understood that “government and private enterprise complement each other” and “must continue to coexist and cooperate.” But he knew that too much government makes the pursuit of happiness – the ability of free people to make full use of their God-given talents – much more difficult.

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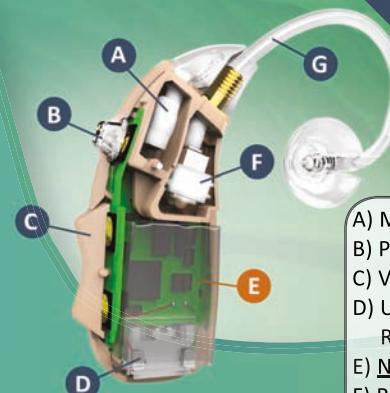


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"We must always ask: is government working to liberate and empower the individual? Is it creating incentives for people to produce, save, invest and profit from legitimate risks and honest toil?" he argued in 1981. "Or does it seek to compel, command and coerce people into submission and dependence?"

Almost four decades later, those questions still serve as an effective way to measure the state of individual liberty and the reach of government.

We can measure the growth of government in many ways: percentage of the workforce employed by federal, state or local government (1.3 percent in 1900, 6.7 percent today), federal spending as a share of GDP (10.8 percent in 1948, 20.4 percent today), number of jobs that require a government-issued license (10 percent in 1975, 29 percent today), average tax burden (5.9 percent in 1900, 30 percent today), or length of the income-tax form (four pages in 1913, 107 pages today).

One of the most telling measures of government growth is the size of the *Federal Register*, which contains federal-agency rules, notices and regulations. The *Federal Register* numbered 2,620 pages in 1936, 20,072 in 1968, 53,842 in 1989 and 97,069 in 2016. In 2016 alone, the number of pages explaining new rules and regs jumped by 56.52 percent. However, the regulatory pendulum has begun to swing in the opposite direction.

"We have eliminated more regulations in our first year than any administration in history," President Trump boasted in his first State of the Union address. This wasn't hyperbole. Trump ordered that "for every one new regulation issued, at least two prior regulations be identified for elimination." The result: more than 30,000 pages struck from the *Federal Register*, with the number of regulations slashed accordingly. Plus, Congress in 2017-2018 employed a little-known tool that allows it to repeal regulations. Passed into law by a Republican Congress and Democratic president in 1996, the Congressional Review Act was used only once prior to 2017; by mid-2018, it had been invoked 16 times.

Regulations and rules are not just stale stats that have little effect on the average American. In fact, complying with federal regulations in 2014 cost employers, on average, \$9,991 per employee. The Mercatus Center at George Mason University found that growth in federal regulations between 1980 and 2012 shaved about 25 percent from America's wealth — \$13,000 in lost income per American.

The Trump administration's rescinding of the Obama administration's Clean Power Plan will save energy companies \$33 billion — costs that would have been passed on to consumers in higher rates.

Likewise, the Trump administration's decision to ease regulations requiring carmakers to meet average fuel-economy standards of 54.5 miles per gallon by 2025 will save Americans an average of \$2,340 on the purchase of a new car.

Yet even after the regulatory rollbacks, the cost of federal regulations in 2018 was still \$1.9 trillion, according to the Competitive Enterprise Institute.

One set of regulations that continues to affect Americans is the Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act, commonly known as "Dodd-Frank."

To address problems created by government interventions that forced lenders to make mortgages available to borrowers who could not afford to make down payments or own a house, Dodd-Frank — in classic government fashion — overcorrected and made it more difficult for lenders to make mortgages and other loans available to everyone.

Dodd-Frank "made it a much bigger pain in the butt to get a loan," Jaret Seiberg of Guggenheim Securities said in a CNBC interview. "You've got to fill out more paperwork, you've got to dig up more tax returns ... stuff that was never asked for before."

Because of Dodd-Frank, the Mortgage Bankers Association reports that the average bank underwriter can process 33 loans per month today — down from 165 per month in 2005.

It's no mystery why: Dodd-Frank spawned 400 new rules and triggered a tidal wave of banking-related regulatory restrictions — from just over 20,000 before Dodd-Frank to 52,475 after. Dodd-Frank also created the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, which supporters view as a much-needed watchdog against predatory lending and financial risk but critics deride as an unchecked regulatory behemoth. The 2018 Economic Growth, Regulatory Relief and Consumer Protection Act reined in aspects of Dodd-Frank.

For those who see regulation as a constraint on individual freedom, the recent deregulation trend is reason to cheer. For those who see it as a constraint on bad behavior, regulatory-rollback efforts are cause for concern. Regardless of which side you find yourself on, one thing is beyond debate: Today's enormous number of regulations affects economic activity, property rights, and the size and cost of government — all of which affect individual freedom.

RIGHTS AND WRONGS The reach of the regulatory state is only one example of how individual liberty is on the defensive. Consider the encroachment on perhaps our most cherished freedoms — those embodied in the First Amendment.

Among the freedoms protected by the First Amendment are freedom of religion, freedom of

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speech, freedom of the press and the right to peaceably assemble.

Under the Affordable Care Act, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) required all employers offering health insurance to include coverage for “preventive health services,” defined to include abortion-inducing drugs, sterilization and contraception – services many religious employers found at odds with their beliefs. State and federal agencies even sued religious institutions to force them to provide these services in health-care plans – a blatant violation of freedom of conscience and the free exercise of religion. To be sure, there are instances when government must intervene to prevent a religious practice from harming someone, but the HHS mandate turned the government’s responsibility-to-protect principle on its head.

As for freedom of speech, the Foundation for Individual Rights in Education reports that 89.7 percent of U.S. colleges “maintain policies that restrict – or too easily could restrict – student and faculty expression.”

California has passed legislation defining words that can and cannot be used to refer to transgender people – and criminalizing failure to use “preferred pronouns.” Likewise, the New York City Commission on Human Rights promulgated an ordinance in 2016 requiring employers, landlords and businesses to use “preferred name, pronoun and title” – including “ze” and “hir” – when addressing employees, tenants, customers or clients. Those who fail to speak in a manner the government approves face civil penalties of between \$125,000 and \$250,000.

Then there are the instances of homeowners associations (HOAs) barring or limiting residents from flying the U.S. flag. A Georgia HOA allows its residents to fly Old Glory 23 specified-in-writing days a year. In response to such nonsense, Congress passed legislation in 2006 ensuring our right to fly our flag. That’s a good thing. Yet it’s sad that Congress had to do so, sadder still that HOAs are oblivious to the law – or willfully ignoring it.

As to freedom of the press, Trump has mused via Twitter about stripping TV networks of their FCC licenses and raised the prospect of “retribution” against NBC for airing satirical skits critical of him.

Where Trump has threatened the press, President Obama acted. *New York Times* reporter James Risen details how the Obama administration “spied on reporters by monitoring their phone records, labeled one journalist an unindicted co-conspirator in a criminal case for simply doing reporting, and issued subpoenas to other reporters to try to force them to reveal their sources and testify in criminal cases.”

Some will defend Trump’s tweets as examples of free speech. But the presidency’s megaphone is so loud, its bully pulpit so large and its regulatory reach so great that presidents must measure their words more than the average citizen. Others will defend the Obama administration’s heavy-handed tactics as an act of self-defense against leaks. But presidents must understand that the leaker is the one who’s guilty – not those who report what is leaked.

The Constitution serves as a bulwark for a free press because the founders recognized that a free press would be essential to keeping an eye on government, exposing government activities and thus checking government power.

As for the right of peaceful assembly, at least seven states have passed, or are considering, legislation criminalizing protests related to oil pipelines.

To peacefully assemble in New York City, you will need to open a special online account, complete a registration-enrollment form, provide exhaustive event information, fill out a detailed questionnaire and pay a nonrefundable processing fee. But that only gets your request in front of the Street Activity Permit Office (SAPO). During the actual review process, “SAPO will contact all pertinent city agencies for their recommendations.” SAPO may then “require the applicant to modify the event, change the event date or locations, or deny the event” or “require a meeting or site visit with the applicant.”

To be sure, our system is not designed for government by protest march, and peaceful assembly must be just that: peaceful. But one wonders how those who persuaded the American colonies to declare their independence, challenged America to abolish slavery, secured the franchise for women, and pushed America to ensure equal rights for blacks and whites could have rallied their nation to the cause of liberty under such constraints.

While some of these examples don’t involve federal encroachment on individual freedom, all involve arms of government or quasi-government entities (public agencies, state government, state universities, municipalities, HOAs). And all take aim at freedoms enshrined in the Constitution, which was designed to promote individual liberty and limit government – not promote government and limit liberty.

Just as freedom without a foundation of law and order devolves into anarchy, laws and orders fashioned without regard for the Constitution’s foundational promise to “secure the blessings of liberty” have the effect of undermining it. ¶

Alan W. Dowd is a contributing editor for The American Legion Magazine.

It's Time to Salute Your American Hero!



An eagle appears on the hour as a service branch-appropriate melody plays



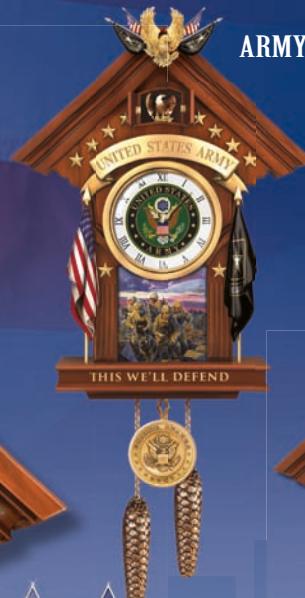
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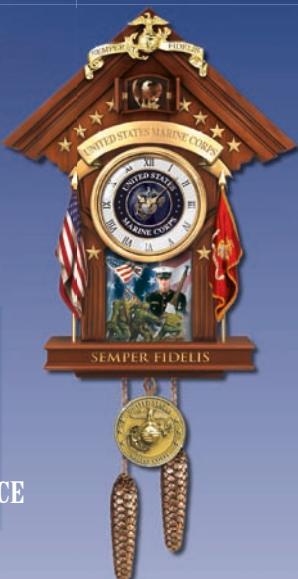
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Legionnaires attend a ceremony celebrating the 100th anniversary of the St. Louis Caucus at the Soldiers Memorial and Military Museum in St. Louis on May 10. Photo by Schelly Stone

CENTENNIAL

Legion marks 100th anniversary of St. Louis Caucus

One hundred years earlier, to the day, nearly 1,100 veterans of the Great War were gathered in St. Louis for the first stateside caucus of The American Legion.

Fifty years earlier, to the day, then-American Legion National Commander William C. Doyle issued a letter to whoever would be his successor as leader of the nation's largest veterans organization on its 100th anniversary.

"We don't know what your world will be like, but we know it will be different from ours," Doyle wrote to the centennial national commander, Brett P. Reistad of Virginia. "We are confident that if in your era there is an American Legion of substance, and if there is a need for the type of service The American Legion was founded to provide, you will be providing it then, just as we are now."

American Legion Past Department of Missouri Commander Charles Goodin read the letter in a ceremony May 10 in front of the newly refurbished American Legion memorial in St. Louis that commemorates the city's place in the infancy of the organization. Reistad plans to write his own letter, one to be shared with the national commander on the 150th anniversary of The American Legion.

Following the spring meeting of the Legion's National Executive Committee, hundreds of members and their families – representing 15 departments – poured into St. Louis for a centennial commemoration that featured Legion exhibits, tours of the newly restored Soldiers Memorial and Military Museum in the city, speeches from dignitaries, a mayoral proclamation, a wreath-laying ceremony and a luncheon at the Missouri Athletic Club.

"The St. Louis Caucus was here," American Legion Past National Commander Joseph Frank explained. "The Preamble of The American Legion Constitution was written here. I think it's awesome that people have come from all over the nation to participate in the ceremonies we are having here at the Soldiers Memorial and Military Museum."

He said that until this year's restoration, "this museum was in jeopardy. The city didn't have the money to repair it. They tried. The Missouri Veterans Commission that I chaired would give them \$1 million, but that didn't get far. We had an anonymous donor who gave \$30 million. And now this memorial and museum is back up to par, and The American Legion is certainly a part of this huge dedication."

SCOUTING

SAL member named Legion's Eagle Scout of the Year



Jaden Anderson of Provo, Utah, is The American Legion's 2019 Eagle Scout of the Year and will receive a \$10,000 scholarship.

Anderson, a Sons of The American Legion member of Squadron 13, is a senior at Timpview High School and earned all 138 Boy Scouts of America merit badges. He attended Utah Boys State last summer and is a recipient of the American Legion School Award Medal.

For his Eagle Scout project, Anderson worked with the U.S. Forest Service at Payson Lakes in Utah to re-stain old bridges along the main trail and plant more than 250 shrubs where people were making their own trails. His goal was to encourage people to use the main, more sustainable trails and keep the rest of the landscape from degradation. The project involved more than 30 volunteers and 200 hours of service.

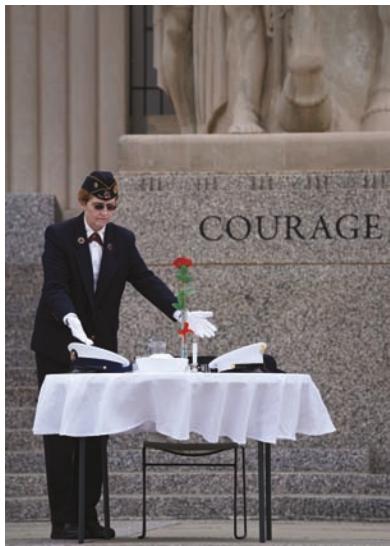
Anderson has attended more than 20 Scout camps and has served his community in various ways, including gathering food and other items for the Utah Guard Pantry Drive, which supports unemployed, underemployed and military families in need. The son of a late Utah National Guard soldier, Anderson volunteers for the Little Warriors camp, which serves families of U.S. troops who died in combat or by suicide upon return.

The museum also pays significant respect to the role African-American military personnel and veterans from St. Louis have fulfilled through the decades. William Curtis, vice commander of the traditionally black Tom Powell Post 77 in St. Louis, said the Legion's early acceptance of all veterans "is important to us. We had a large population of African-Americans here, many of whom served previously in World War I and went overseas from here. It was important to us that they held (the St. Louis Caucus) here. We love America, like everyone else. We want to defend it and defend our families, our country."

Curtis said Post 77 was the first of its kind to become chartered as an African-American post in September 1919, decades before the military would desegregate. He said the post grew to about 1,500 members after World War I, and while numbers have declined in recent years, Post 77 is now working to attract younger veterans into its ranks. "We want to continue our legacy," he said.

American Legion Department of Missouri Commander Kerry Boardman called it "an honor to walk in the footsteps of 1,079 delegates – 73 of whom were Missourians – who attended the first caucus in St. Louis, May 8-10, 1919, at the Shubert-Jefferson Theater, approximately two blocks from here. The theater no longer stands, but there is a bank building there that has a plaque on the side, as a tribute to The American Legion, that it still stands on the principles of community, state and nation."

American Legion Past National Commander David K. Rehbein of Iowa, chairman of the organization's 100th Anniversary Observance Committee, told the crowd that the 1919 St. Louis Caucus established values which have stood



A member of the St. Louis Service Women's Post 404 honor guard presents the POW/MIA table as part of the ceremony. Post 404 is Missouri's largest and oldest all-female post.

Photo by Schelly Stone

the test of time. "There were three rules," he explained. "We still live by those today. First, the St. Louis Caucus would be totally non-partisan; there would be no political parties operating at the St. Louis Caucus. Second, there would be no distinction based on location of service. Third, when they went into the caucus, they would be a civilian organization. It wouldn't matter what rank you wore on your arm or your shoulder, everyone in that caucus hall was equal Our preamble and constitution came out of that caucus. We recite that preamble every time we gather together. Those words are engraved in our hearts and our minds."

Reistad said the Legion's Four Pillars have proven equally durable over the past century. "Veterans, a strong national defense, children and youth, and Americanism – those four pillars have resonated for 100 years and continue to endure because they are timeless, just like the Preamble to The

American Legion Constitution, drafted here."

"This is important to us: the first U.S. caucus held in St. Louis," added Department of Missouri Adjutant Lowry Finley-Jackson, who coordinated the event. "It's about us. It's about everybody." Finley-Jackson has helped lead the state's Legion centennial effort and serves on the national 100th Anniversary Observance Committee as well.

As the celebration wound down, Rehbein reflected on the founders' enthusiasm, vitality and sense of purpose. "I hope as this group leaves here to head home that we can take a small bit of that with each of us, because we are moving into the second century. Think about those veterans. Think about what they felt as they got into cars and trains on their way home. Take a little of that with you."

– Jeff Stoffer

HONOR & REMEMBRANCE

It's going to be historic, emotional. It'll be the last big gathering.

Tom Travis, on flying the restored C-47 troop carrier "That's All, Brother" to France for the 75th anniversary of the D-Day invasion in June. In 1944, the U.S. warplane spearheaded the Allies' main invasion force, leading nearly 900 planes that dropped some 13,000 paratroopers. Following the war, it was sold on the civilian market and changed hands nearly a dozen times before Air Force historians tracked the aircraft to an aviation boneyard in Wisconsin. The Texas-based Commemorative Air Force purchased "That's All, Brother" in 2015; a crew now travels with it, offering flights to veterans and others. Source: NBC News



KEY RESOLUTIONS OF THE 2019 SPRING MEETINGS

AMERICANISM

- 23** Urges posts to participate in Constitution Day activities each year
- 24** Commends the Joe Foss Institute for helping educate veterans, students and teachers about liberty, U.S. military history and patriotic values, and for championing a citizenship civics test in high schools as a condition of graduation
- 25** Commends Girl Scouts of the USA for serving as a pre-eminent leadership development organization for girls

FINANCE

- 7** Acceptance of financial grants from organizations that align with American Legion purposes and policies

INTERNAL AFFAIRS

- 15** Commends "Statues of Liberation" project in Ste. Mere-Eglise, Normandy, France, to install statues of Brig. Gen. Theodore Roosevelt Jr. and Supreme Allied Commander-Europe Gen. Dwight Eisenhower
- 16** Urges all posts to actively mentor and develop forums for youth academic programs in their communities
- 17** Create and promote Veterans Service Days to provide outreach to veterans regarding benefits and services
- 19** Urges all posts to actively support youth sports programs in their communities
- 20** Promotion of Family Play Day events at posts

VETERANS AFFAIRS & REHABILITATION

- 10** Allow updating of Burn Pit Registry with cause of death of a deceased registered individual by a designated individual or immediate family member
- 12** Establish new eligibility criteria for burial and interment at Arlington National Cemetery

VETERANS EMPLOYMENT & EDUCATION

- 13** Support robust enforcement of Military Lending Act

Go online for the full text of all 30 resolutions passed at the meetings.

 archive.legion.org, click on "Resolutions"



SPRING MEETINGS

Reistad praises Buddy Checks, urges posts to be inclusive

In his remarks to The American Legion's National Executive Committee, National Commander Brett Reistad praised departments that processed Temporary Financial Assistance (TFA) applications for Coast Guard families and gave generously to the Veterans and Children Foundation, then encouraged Legion leaders to ask their senators and representatives to support the LEGION Act on Capitol Hill.

He also paid tribute to "an outstanding national commander, tremendous veterans' advocate and a great friend," Past National Commander William Detweiler, who passed away March 27.

The LEGION Act would allow any veteran who served honorably under federal orders since World War II to join The American Legion, expanding membership eligibility to hundreds of thousands of veterans. Even so, the solution to increasing membership is in engaging people, Reistad said.

In the week leading up to the Legion's 100th birthday in March, Reistad called for posts, districts and departments to create "Buddy Check" teams to call current and former members to see how they're doing.

"I know it to be true, those participating in Buddy Checks will see positive results," said Reistad, citing the Department of New Hampshire's request for posts to contact at least 10 percent of their membership each month.

Reistad also encouraged posts to be inclusive. "Veterans of every demographic need to feel welcome in our American Legion Family," he said. "It goes without saying that men and women who meet our eligibility requirements need to be welcomed regardless of their ethnicity, religion or orientation. And do they have equal opportunities to advance at the post, district, department and national levels?"

As for age discrimination, it runs two ways, he added. "We all love to see new, young members, but that never excuses pushing out experienced, loyal members who have served their country and their American Legion for many years. We will always have the common bond of military service, and we need to ensure that bond continues in service to The American Legion."

Reistad applauded the NEC for adopting Resolution 18, which calls for twice-a-year Buddy Checks (the weeks of the Legion's birthday and Veterans Day), and Resolution 11, which opposes VA charging co-pays for treatment of service-connected disabilities.



\$1.1 million+ Amount awarded in 2019 Legacy Scholarship dollars, to 57 students

8 American Legion departments at 100 percent membership by the May 8 target date: Alabama, France, Hawaii, Idaho, Mexico, Philippines, Utah and Wyoming

\$1.2 million+ Total in donations made to American Legion programs during Spring Meetings

\$1,013,086 Amount donated to the Temporary Financial Assistance program alone, after TFA provided more than \$1 million in grants to Coast Guard families



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CAPITOL HILL

Vets in Congress form For Country Caucus

A bipartisan group of military veterans serving in Congress has launched the For Country Caucus – a collection of House members that will “provide principled military veteran members a platform to work in a nonpartisan way and create a more productive government.”

Announcing the creation of the For Country Caucus in *The Washington Post*, the group’s founders say they envision “a less polarized Congress that works for – and is trusted by – Americans ... a Congress where members serve with integrity, civility and courage ... a Congress that is strategic in purpose, focused in action and where elected officials put their country first.”

The group notes that just decades ago, “veterans made up more than 70 percent of Congress. An ingrained commitment to public service brought these Democrats and Republicans together to put country over party.” In contrast, today veteran representation in Congress is near a historic low of 18 percent, and Congress is “often paralyzed by debilitating bickering and gridlock.” Members of the For Country Caucus say these trends aren’t a coincidence.

Noting that during their time in the military their actions were in service to and for country, the group’s founders say they “are committed to continuing that ethos in Congress through the For Country Caucus.” The For Country Caucus was formed by Reps. Jimmy Panetta, D-Calif., Don Bacon, R-Neb., Chrissy Houlahan, D-Pa., and Michael Waltz, R-Fla.



U.S. Army photo by Spc. Andrew Kosterman

WAR ON TERRORISM

Iran's toll on U.S. troops

Pentagon officials have revised the number of U.S. troops killed by Iranian-backed militias during Operation Iraqi Freedom from 500 to 603, *Military Times* reports. “That means roughly one in every six American combat fatalities in Iraq were attributable to Iran,” according to *Military Times*. The paper reports that the deaths “are attributed to proxies sponsored by the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps.”

According to Pentagon spokesman Navy Cmdr. Sean Robertson, “These casualties were the result of explosively formed penetrators (EFPs), other improvised explosive devices (IEDs), improvised rocket-assisted munitions (IRAMs), rockets, mortars, rocket-propelled grenades (RPGs), small-arms, sniper and other attacks in Iraq.”

DEFENSE

Pentagon eyes Polish base

Pentagon officials are working with Polish military officials on a plan to permanently base U.S. troops in Poland, *Military Times* reports.

Poland set the plan in motion with an offer to contribute \$2 billion or more for a permanent U.S. military base on Polish soil, as a hedge against Russian aggression and mischief in eastern Europe. After senior U.S. defense officials met with Polish officials in Warsaw, Kathryn Wheelbarger, acting assistant secretary of defense for international security affairs, told a House committee, “We have come forward with what we think is a very serious robust offer, and we’re just working out some of the technicalities.”

The United States has deployed troops in Poland on a rotational basis for years, but “a more permanent base is helpful because of ... the mission they have,” according to Gen. Curtis Scaparrotti, commander of U.S. European Command and NATO’s top military commander.

The agreement could take months to be finalized, followed by “a couple of years ... before we would be dealing with an actual base,” Scaparrotti said.

The Polish defense ministry lists the regions of Bydgoszcz and Toruń as possible locations for the hypothetical U.S. base.

BY THE NUMBERS

Bill of Rights (and wrongs)

50 Percent of Americans who believe “liberty” is one of the five freedoms protected by the First Amendment

49 Percent of Americans who believe “the pursuit of happiness” is one of the freedoms listed in the First Amendment

26 Percent of Americans who know how many amendments comprise the Bill of Rights

57 Percent of Americans who say the First Amendment is at risk

Sources: News Literacy Project/Samuel Hubbard

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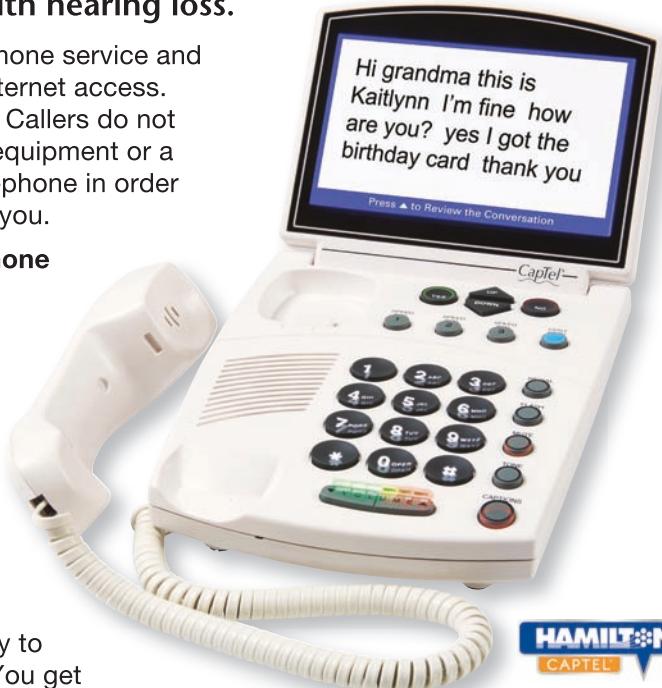
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LEGION BASEBALL

'It taught me the game'

Hall of Famer Lee Smith recalls lessons of American Legion Baseball.

Class of 2019 National Baseball Hall of Famer Lee Smith grew up in a rural farming area of Louisiana where, if you wanted to run around a diamond on a summer afternoon, you'd better have your chores done in the morning.

Smith, who played 18 years of Major League Baseball for eight teams and collected 30 or more saves as a relief pitcher in 11 seasons, was a special guest at the Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, N.Y., for a Department of New York event celebrating The American Legion's centennial. Between autograph sessions and an onstage talk before Legionnaires and fans, he spoke with *The American Legion Magazine*.

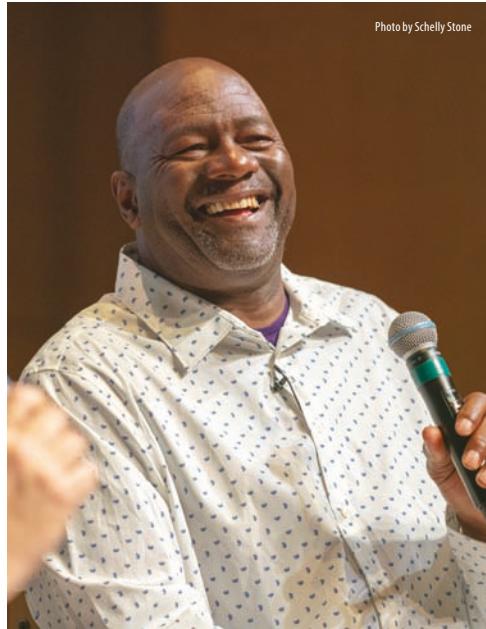
What was it like for you, growing up on a farm, to play baseball in the summer?

I was originally born in a little town called Jamestown, which still doesn't have a red light, and we moved up to another small town, Castor, and we still didn't have a red light. I started out playing sandlot ball, and a couple of guys saw me. I got to be a sophomore in high school and started getting a little more into playing the game. I went to a couple of my coaches and community people who knew about baseball and loved the game. A guy named Bobby Gray talked me into playing Legion Baseball. Most of the kids back in the day had chores, so I had to work baseball into my regimen of the day.

How did that work out?

I went to the little town of Minden, La., where I first started to try to play American Legion Baseball. I sat the bench there for most of the year; I wasn't good enough to make the team. A good friend of mine, Danny Myers, a catcher who came from Castor, we talked to some guys and ended up going to Natchitoches, La., where I got to play American Legion Baseball.

I will never forget my first game I actually pitched. My whole family was there. I never will forget my grandmother giving the coach a hard time. She said, "Hey, I came to the game today, and it was the first time I ever wore a pant suit, so don't take him out early." I told her, "It's not going to be up to the coach. It's going to be up to the other team and me, to see how long I stay in the game." I went seven innings, and the rest is history.



What were some of the values you learned from American Legion Baseball?

When I got into American Legion Baseball, we were all 100 miles apart because we were spread out in the country. It didn't matter where you came from; you were a team. You got that sportsmanship. If I am facing you, and I make a bad pitch, and you hit a home run off me, I am not going to get bent out of shape.

How did Legion Baseball develop your playing skills?

American Legion Baseball really started my career – learning and understanding the game and why coaches do certain things ... the hit and run, learning how to read a bat, learning not only how to pitch around guys, but when to go in and go out. I learned to go out there and put your best foot forward. Don't second-guess yourself. I didn't fail a lot at American Legion Baseball, but it taught me the game, how to handle myself.

What about the friendships?

When we played a game, the whole family, not just the team, went to this restaurant called The Cotton Patch in Natchitoches. We would always go and talk about the game. Families would meet each other. Families started getting together in the stands, even if you weren't playing. That's why I don't say I have teammates; I have family members.

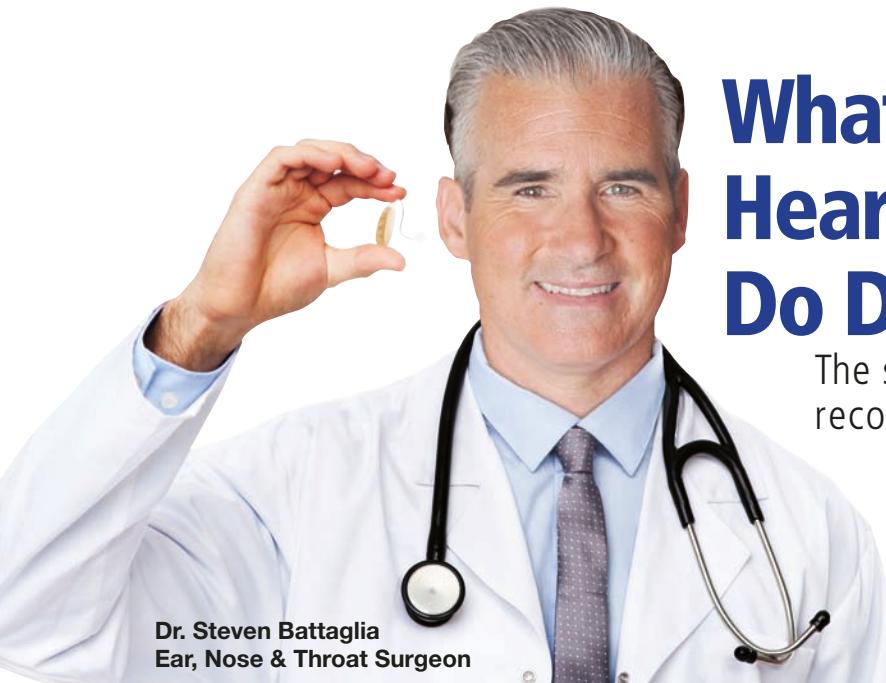
How do you think youth baseball has changed?

So many guys now get hung up on being the best. But you've got to take a chance of failing to win. I think so many families move obstacles out of a kid's way so they don't have to work hard. I want to work for it. You've got 15 to 20 guys on a team, and everybody gets a trophy, even the guy who didn't show up for practice. Back in the day, you got one trophy, and that was MVP for the team that won it all.

You are now one of 81 former American Legion Baseball players in the Hall of Fame – about one-quarter of the 329 who are enshrined. What does that mean to you?

It's been really amazing, seeing where I came from – a town that doesn't have a red light, from a hay field – to playing American Legion Baseball, to the Hall of Fame.

– Jeff Stoffer



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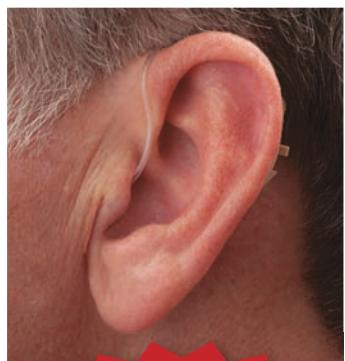
"MDHearingAids are better than expensive clinic hearing aids, which cost thousands more," says retired physician Dr. Robert A.

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NATIONAL CONVENTION

Tours showcase the best of Indianapolis



Lew White Tours is offering several tour opportunities during the 101st National Convention in Indianapolis.

Indianapolis City Tour: Indy 101

(\$39 in advance, \$45 on site) – Aug. 23, 24, 26

This two-hour tour includes Monument Circle, the State Capitol, Scottish Rite

Cathedral, American Legion National Headquarters, the American Legion Mall, Union Station, Circle Centre Mall, the Indianapolis Zoo, the Indianapolis Museum of Art, the Children's Museum, Bankers Life Fieldhouse, Lucas Oil Stadium, the Governor's Residence and Central Canal.

Indianapolis Motor Speedway

(\$49 in advance, \$55 on site) – Aug. 23, 24, 26

Enjoy a narrated tour of this 100-year-old racing circuit while traveling around its 2.5-mile oval track. Get off the bus at the start-finish line and kiss the famous yard of bricks. Also included is admission to the Indianapolis Motor Speedway Museum, which displays several cars that won the Indy 500 and other racing memorabilia.

Indianapolis Monuments and Memorials Tour

(\$39 in advance, \$45 on site) – Aug. 23, 24, 26

Indianapolis is second only to Washington, D.C., in the number of monuments and memorials. This tour stops at the Soldiers & Sailors Monument and Col. Eli Lilly Civil War Museum, the Indiana World War Memorial, the Congressional Medal of Honor Memorial, the World War II Memorial, the Korean War Memorial, the Vietnam War Memorial and the USS *Indianapolis* Memorial. You'll also see University Park Monument, the American Legion Mall, the Veterans Memorial Plaza and the 9/11 Memorial.

Rolls-Royce (Allison) Aircraft Engine Museum

(\$24 in advance, \$29 on site) – Aug. 23

Allison Engine Company (now Rolls-Royce) designed and built Liberty engines for aircraft during World War I, developed the power plant for the new generation of Army Air Corps fighters during World War II, and continued working with the military after the war. It also produced the AE3007 jet engine, which powers many 50-passenger regional jets used by airlines around the world. The museum collection includes these historical engines and others, as well as several turbine engines designed for automobiles.

LEGION FAMILY NIGHT WITH THE COLTS

On Aug. 24, the Indianapolis Colts take on the Chicago Bears at Lucas Oil Stadium in downtown Indianapolis. The Colts have extended a special ticket offer to the Legion Family.

Prices are \$40 for the 600 Level Sideline, \$54 for the 400 Level End Zone, and \$59 for the 400 Level Corners. Place orders at coltsgroups.com/americanlegion, or download and fill out an order form at legion.org/convention/resources.

Edinburgh Premium Outlet Center

(\$39 in advance, \$45 on site) – Aug. 24

Simon Property Group, the largest U.S. shopping mall developer, has a Premium Outlet Centers about 30 minutes from Indianapolis. Stores include Ann Taylor, Adidas, Van Heusen/Izod, Loft Polo/Ralph Lauren, Vera Bradley, Calvin Klein, Guess, Levi, Tommy Hilfiger, Lane Bryant, Columbia, Coach, Under Armour, Eddie Bauer and Nike. Ruby Tuesday, McDonald's and Cracker Barrel are across the parking lot.

Camp Atterbury Tour

(\$39 in advance, \$45 on site) – Aug. 23, 26

Camp Atterbury, covering over 40,000 acres in south central Indiana, was a major combat training facility during World War II, as well as an Italian and German POW camp. Today Camp Atterbury is one of two facilities that trains regular and reserve forces before deployment overseas. This tour includes the Camp Atterbury Museum, activation, unit training and the motor pool. A separate open-air museum features several World War II-related items, including tanks.

American Legion Auxiliary National Headquarters Tour

(\$25 in advance, \$30 on site) – Aug. 23, 26

See the new American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) National Headquarters building on the northwest side of the city, with expanded meeting spaces and the Cavalcade of Memories history museum displaying ALA's large collection of artifacts.

Shuttle to and from American Legion Headquarters

(\$10 in advance, \$15 on site) – Aug. 23, 26

Hop on the bus at the convention center and travel to American Legion National Headquarters. Enjoy a self-guided tour of the building; just follow the arrows on the floor. Staff members will be available to answer questions. Stay as long as you like, knowing that every 15 minutes you may hop on a bus to return to the convention center. On Aug. 23, shuttle buses operate from 1 p.m. to 5:10 p.m. On Aug. 26, they operate from 10 a.m. to 5:10 p.m.

Tour registration is open online. Attendees can also register onsite at the Indiana Convention Center.

 legion.org/convention/resources

Indianapolis Motor Speedway Photo courtesy Visit Indy





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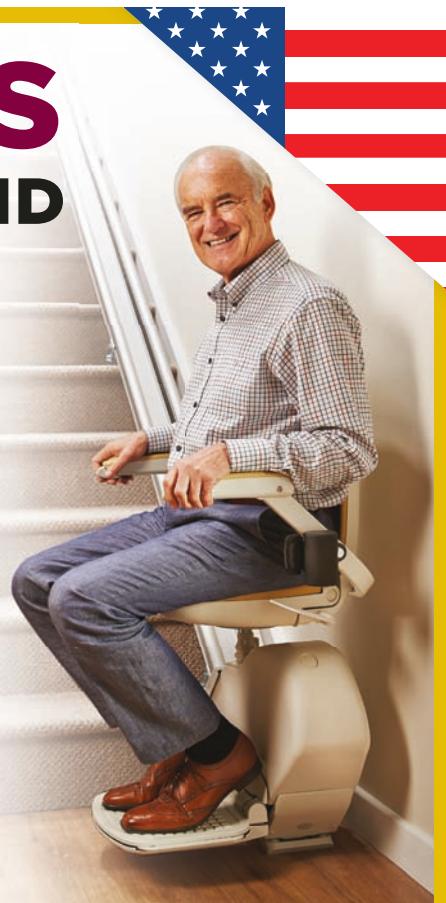


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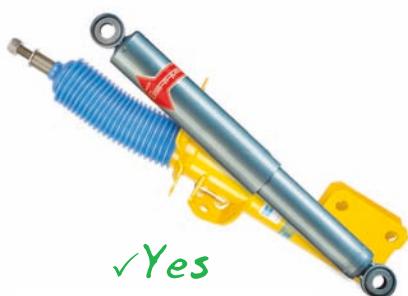
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LEGION BASEBALL

Vote online for ALB's All-Centennial Team

American Legion Baseball is honoring its greatest players since 1925 by announcing an All-Centennial Team.

Fans will be able to vote online at legion.org/baseball/vote for the roster of 18 players and two coaches, which will be announced at the 2019 American Legion Baseball World Series in Shelby, N.C., Aug. 14-20.

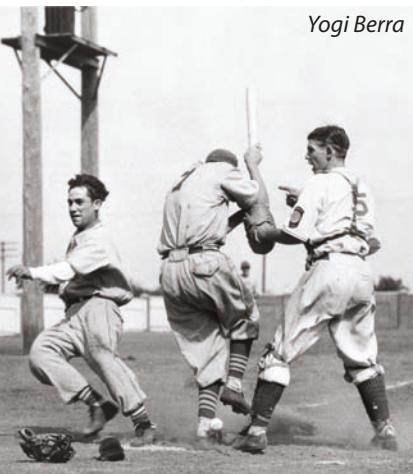
A list of 85 nominees, including all 78 former ALB players inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame as players or coaches, was presented to the American Legion Baseball Committee, which trimmed the number to 60 for a fan vote.

The nominees are:

- **Catchers** – Johnny Bench, Yogi Berra, Gary Carter, Carlton Fisk, Mike Piazza, Iván Rodríguez
- **First basemen** – Jeff Bagwell, Harmon Killebrew, Albert Pujols, Eddie Murray, Willie Stargell, Jim Thome
- **Second basemen** – Roberto Alomar, Paul Molitor, Joe Morgan, Ryne Sandberg
- **Shortstops** – Barry Larkin, Pee Wee Reese, Alan Trammell, Robin Yount
- **Third basemen** – Wade Boggs, George Brett, Chipper Jones, Eddie Mathews, Brooks Robinson
- **Outfielders** – Barry Bonds, Tony Gwynn, Reggie Jackson, Al Kaline, Ralph Kiner, Stan Musial, Frank Robinson, Ted Williams, Dave Winfield, Carl Yastrzemski
- **Starting pitchers** – Bert Blyleven, Jim Bunning, Steve Carlton, Roger Clemens, Don Drysdale, Bob Feller, Bob Gibson, Roy Halladay, Greg Maddux, Phil Niekro, Jim Palmer, Gaylord Perry, Tom Seaver, Warren Spahn, Justin Verlander
- **Relief pitchers** – Rollie Fingers, Trevor Hoffman, Lee Smith, Bruce Sutter, Hoyt Wilhelm
- **Coaches** – Sparky Anderson, Bobby Cox, Tony LaRussa, Joe Torre, Earl Weaver

The 25 honorable mentions are, by position, Roy Campanella, Don Mattingly, Bobby Doerr, Nellie Fox, Joe Gordon, Lou Boudreau, George Kell, Ron Santo, Richie Ashburn, Harold Baines, Bryce Harper, Joe Medwick, Tim Raines, Jim Rice, Tom Glavine, Catfish Hunter, Bob Lemon, Jack Morris, Mike Mussina, Hal Newhouser, Robin Roberts, Max Scherzer, Early Wynn, Whitey Herzog and Dick Williams.

– Jeremy Field



Yogi Berra



Justin Verlander Wikimedia Commons



Photo courtesy Horace Orr Post 29

CENTENNIAL

Post 29, Marietta, Ga.

Horace Orr Post 29 was first chartered in 1919, but it wasn't until 1940 that its current Auxiliary unit was chartered. A photo on the post's Centennial Celebration timeline shows the kickoff of the unit's annual poppy sale in 1956. Pictured, from left, are Post Commander Cecil Dudley, Marietta Mayor Sam Welch, Unit President Mrs. Robert Boyd and Mrs. R.A. Wheeler.

SHARE YOUR POST'S LEGACY

Upload stories, photos and videos of your American Legion post's history.

 legion.org/centennial

EDUCATION

Refunds of GI Bill education benefits

Q: I have been attending

college using my Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits. I plan on receiving my bachelor's in education. Last spring, though, I had to drop my classes during the first week of school due to health reasons. My school refunded my tuition of \$15,800. My Post-9/11 GI Bill paid

my tuition, so why did I receive the refund and not VA?

A: When you dropped your classes, VA advised the school that it must follow its established refund policy, so it did and refunded you the money. Once the school reports the drop, VA may create a debt for the tuition and fees. Generally, overpayments of VA benefits are the responsibility of the student. However, if you dropped prior to school starting or on the first day, the school must return the tuition and fees payment to VA.

Valerie Heffner is a Marine Corps veteran and member of American Legion Post 27 in Apache Junction, Ariz. askvalerie@legion.org

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PERSONAL FINANCE



How does your financial well-being stack up?

FOCUS ON FINANCES

J.J. MONTANARO

In late 2016, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau established what it called the financial well-being survey and scale. The idea is that "well-being" goes beyond financial literacy (what you know you should be doing) to what you actually are doing.

This concept caught my attention recently when I was doing some related research.

The approach is a bit of a surprise. Since the survey attempts to assess where you stand with your finances, you might expect it to be filled with questions about retirement plan numbers, credit card balances and the like. Instead, it consists of 10 core statements that the survey taker agrees with on a sliding scale from "completely" to "not at all."

I thought it might be instructive to dig into a few of the survey's statements:

- **I could handle a major unexpected expense.** I see where they are going here: the emergency fund. Very regularly we see stats showing how Americans are ill-prepared for even a bite-size emergency. In April, I saw a Federal Reserve study that indicated 58 percent of Americans didn't even have \$500 set aside to respond to the unexpected.

- **I am securing my financial future.** This statement screams "save and invest." Lotto tickets and rich relatives are not going to be the engines that drive most of our financial futures. However, systematically saving and investing may get the job done.

- **I have money left over at the end of the month.** This one is all about budgeting. When I'm on the road talking with servicemembers and their families, I like to turn the table on the audience and, instead of focusing on budgeting, focus on the "why" behind budgeting. It's not

about the budget; it's about accomplishing what you want to accomplish. If you focus on the projected and expected outcomes, budgeting can turn from a grind into a liberating experience.

- **I am concerned that the money I have or will save won't last.** This is an interesting question. At first, I think about individuals on the brink of retirement who are concerned their nest eggs aren't big enough. That's an understandable concern. Vanguard provides 401(k) accounts for more than 4 million Americans, and a recent release pegged the median 401(k) balance of their plan participants 65 and older at less than \$60,000. That indicates a potential issue for most folks. No matter where you are on the spectrum of life, it's not too late to start adding to your personal nest egg.

- **My finances control my life.** Control is a strong word, but no matter how you feel about money, it does influence every aspect of your life. Think about Maslow's hierarchy of needs. Whether you're at the bottom and looking at food, clothing or shelter, or at the top and considering lofty charitable and self-actualization goals, money is either a roadblock or a facilitator. If you're feeling money stress, my best advice is: don't go it alone. Whether you seek out the assistance of an attorney, a credit counselor or a financial planner, they can help you map out a plan to get to a better place.

Take the whole survey online at cfpb.gov/consumer-tools/financial-well-being. It doesn't provide nearly enough information to develop a comprehensive financial plan; however, there's plenty of info to alert you whether you need to shift to a healthier financial lifestyle.

J.J. Montanaro is a certified financial planner with USAA, The American Legion's preferred provider of financial services. Submit questions for him online.

legion.org/usaa/focusonfinances

BY THE NUMBERS

Troops weigh in on issues

A wide-ranging poll of active-duty personnel and veterans from all branches of the military conducted by *Smithsonian* magazine and *Stars and Stripes* reveals:

90 percent would join the military again if given the opportunity

87 percent would want their son/daughter to serve in the military

84 percent believe the intervention in Afghanistan has gone on too long

84 percent believe the intervention in Iraq has gone on too long

83 percent support the continuation of the war on terrorism

70 percent support deployment of female troops in ground combat situations

65 percent support deployment of U.S. troops at the U.S.-Mexican border to prevent illegal entry

41 percent believe veterans are being fully treated for their physical military injuries

39 percent approve of transgender people in the military

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Years of work by innovative engineers have resulted in a mobility device that's truly unique. They created a battery that provides powerful energy at a fraction of the weight of most batteries. The **Zinger** features two steering levers, one on either side of the seat. The user pushes both levers down to go forward, pulls them both up to brake, and pushes one while pulling the other to turn to either side. This enables great mobility, the ability to turn on a dime and to pull right up to tables or desks. The controls are right on the steering lever

so it's simple to operate and its exclusive footrest swings out of the way when you stand up or sit down. With its rugged yet lightweight aluminum frame, the **Zinger** is sturdy and durable yet convenient and comfortable! What's more, it easily folds up for storage in a car seat or trunk—you can even gate-check it at the airport like a stroller. Think about it, you can take your **Zinger** almost anywhere, so you don't have to let mobility issues rule your life. It folds in seconds without tools and is safe and reliable. It holds up to 275 pounds, and it goes up to 6 mph and operates for up to 8 hours on a single charge.

Why spend another day letting mobility issues hamper your independence and quality of life?

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Zinger is not a wheelchair or medical device and is not covered by Medicare or Medicaid.

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How to submit a reunion

The American Legion Magazine publishes reunion notices for veterans. Send notices to **The American Legion Magazine, Attn: Reunions, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206**, fax (317) 630-1280, e-mail reunions@legion.org or submit information via our website, www.legion.org/reunions.

Include the branch of service and complete name of the group, no abbreviations, with your request. The listing also should include the reunion dates and city, along with a contact name, telephone number and e-mail address. Listings are publicized free of charge.

Your notice will appear on our Web site within a week and will remain available online until the final day of your reunion. Upon submission, please allow three months for your reunion to be published in print. Due to the large number of reunions, The American Legion Magazine will publish a group's listing only once a year.

Notices should be sent at least six months prior to the reunion to ensure timely publication.

Other notices

"In Search Of" is a means of getting in touch with people from your unit to plan a reunion. We do not publish listings that seek people for interviews, research purposes, military photos or help in filing a VA claim. Listings must include the name of the unit from which you seek people, the time period and the location, as well as a contact name, telephone number and e-mail address. Send notices to **The American Legion Magazine, Attn: "In Search Of," P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206**, fax (317) 630-1280 or e-mail reunions@legion.org.

The magazine will not publish names of individuals, only the name of the unit. Listings are published free of charge.

Life Membership notices are published for Legionnaires who have been awarded life

memberships by their posts. This does not include a member's own Paid-Up-For-Life membership. Notices must be submitted on official forms, which may be obtained by sending a self-addressed stamped envelope to **The American Legion Magazine, Attn: Life Memberships, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206**.

"Comrades in Distress" listings must be approved by the Legion's Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation division. If you are seeking to verify an injury received during service, contact your Legion department service officer for information on how to publish a notice.

To respond to a "Comrades in Distress" listing, send a letter to **The American Legion Magazine, Attn: Comrades in Distress, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206**. Include the listing's CID number in your response.

"Taps" notices are published only for Legionnaires who served as department commanders or national officers.

AIR FORCE / ARMY AIR FORCES

6th Bomb Wing, Roswell, NM, 9/20-21, Bobby Pike, (479) 452-7191, bbpike3@cox.net; **12th Tact Ftr Wing (MacDill, FL, Cam Ranh AB & Phu Cat AB, Vietnam)**, 12th FEW/SFW (**Bergstrom AFB, TX & Korea**) and Supporting Units, Dayton, OH, 5/6-9, E.J. Sherwood, (480) 396-4681, ej12tfw@cox.net; **664th AC&W Sqdn**, Bellfontaine, OH, 6/24-26, Billy Stafford, (937) 592-2306, wildbill@columbus.rr.com; **815th TA/TCS**, Branson, MO, 9/29-10/2, Bob Davis, (501) 681-1644, oj1413@aol.com; **Ground Electronics Engineering Installation Agency, Mobile Depot Activity, Engineering Installation (GEEIA-MDA-EI)**, Tulsa, OK, 8/15-18, Karen Lanham, (918) 978-3787, karenlanham95@yahoo.com

ARMY

2nd Inf Div, Tucson, AZ, 9/18-22, Bob Haynes, (224) 225-1202, 2idahq@comcast.net; **3rd Bn (Abn) 4th Air Def Arty Rgt**, Reno, NV, 7/4-7, Roz Parra, (562) 805-1158, roz.parra@gmail.com; **7th Bn 8th Arty**, San Antonio, 10/3-6, Wayne Faas, (641) 485-0083, automatic8-faas@mediacombb.net; **11th Eng Bn**, San Antonio, 9/26-29, Steve Dykes, (214) 693-5188, sdykes9@hotmail.com; **12th MP Co (Guard) (Fort Riley, KS)**, Parkersburg, WV, 8/23-25, Joe Jacques, (608) 269-2082, twogolfers@centurytel.net; **14th Trans Bn (AM&S)(GS) (Nha Trang, Tuy Hoa/Phu Hiep Vietnam, 1965-1972)**, 10/25-29/2020, Tucson, AZ, Dan Quackenbush, (315) 436-0498, quack0711@twcny.rr.com, 14thtransbnams.org; **24th Evac Hosp (Long Binh)**, Nashville, TN, 10/11-14, B.J. Crookshank, (706) 650-1184, bjcrookshank@comcast.net; **24th Inf Rgt Cbt Team**, Knoxville, TN, 7/17-21, Barbara Fitzgerald, (410) 713-0812, barbarafitzgeraldfw10065@comcast.net; **28th Inf Div**, Fort Indiantown Gap, PA, 9/4-7, Gwenn Underwood, (717) 497-0765, info@28thinfantrydivisionassoc.org; **44th Eng Bn**, St. Robert, MO, 9/18-20, Rex Hurd, (816) 688-7470, rhrurd55@yahoo.com; **87th Eng Bn**, Branson, MO, 10/2-6, Francesca Drripps, (417) 334-5678, francesca@militaryreunionsplus.com; **101st Abn Div Vietnam Vets**, Clarksville, TN, 9/18-22, Ron Long, (310) 977-4253, ronlong71@msn.com; **335th Radio Research Co (Vietnam)**, Washington, 10/10-13, Jim Mossman, (513) 779-7145, jmossman@fuse.net; **357th Trans Co**, Hagerstown, MD, 10/19, Jim Rickett, (717) 217-9342, wjrick@comcast.net; **728th MP Bn**, Branson, MO, 10/2-6, David Shafer, (573) 528-9170, shaferde@windstream.net; **919th Eng Co**, West Point, NY, 10/22-25, William Moore, (845) 294-5304, moore7299@gmail.com; **A 1/8 Inf Rgt 4th Inf Div (Vietnam)**, Portland, OR, 9/9-13, Ken McCormack, (619) 997-0176, kenmac1@cox.net; **Alaska Polar Bear Patch**, Frankfort, KY, 9/8-12, Don Bayt, (727) 289-6668, conniebayt@msn.com; **Arizona Army Security Agency**, Tucson, AZ, 8/16-19, Jerry Darr, (480) 507-6825, azasaa.org;

JOINT

Burton Island AG 88/AGB 1/WAGB 283, Portland, ME, 9/23-27, Doug Huckins, (831) 402-2883, jdhuck@att.net; **Korean War Vets Assn**, Arlington, VA, 7/24-28, Sheila Fritts, (217) 345-4414; **Nat'l Counter Intelligence Corps**, Chattanooga, TN, 10/3-6, Jim Cate, (615) 758-6092, goldensphinx007@aol.com; **Nat'l Assn of Fleet Tug Sailors**, Green Bay, WI, 9/3-7, P.J. Rolow, (803) 847-9154, prolow@alionscience.com; **Opn Just Cause 30th Anniv**, Fayetteville, NC, 4/17-18, David Henderson, (910) 850-4162, dhenderson43@nc.rr.com

MARINES

2nd Bn 9th Mar (All Eras), Billerica, MA, 11/7-12, Danny Schuster, (978) 302-4126, twoninencoi@aol.com; **5th Mar Div Assn**, New Orleans, 10/16-21, Jimmie Hyde-Watson, (508) 481-5028, gypsie.lotus@yahoo.com; **HMM/VMM-165 (All Hands, All Yrs)**, San Diego, 9/5-8, Al Dickerson, (317) 462-0733, dickerson@hrtc.net; **Launch and Recovery Unit**, Branson, MO, 9/23-28, Dick Althouse, (760) 741-7629, califayyahoo@sbcglobal.net; **Mar Bks Fort Meade NSA**, Valley Forge, PA, 9/19-22, Bob Pepin, (508) 831-5575, rpepin@wpi.edu; **Mar Corps Recruiting Service**, Bluffton, SC, 9/11-15, Larry Risvold, (803) 760-4575, larryrisvold@att.net; **USMC Food Service Assn**, Woodbridge, VA, 10/3-6, Michael Fishbaugh, (606) 789-5010, smfishbaugh@mikrotec.com

NAVY

Agerholm DD 826, Pensacola, FL, 10/17-20, Donovan Baldwin, (618) 599-5972, dab315@frontier.com; **Altair AKS 32**, Branson, MO, 10/1-5, Bruce Davis, (407) 380-1700, bandedavis@bellsouth.net; **Aviation Boatswains Mates Assn (ABMA)**, Portsmouth, VA, 8/5-9, Jorge Ramirez, (757) 240-6255, jorge.ramirez@cvn78.navy.mil; **Black DD 666**, Branson, MO, 10/2-4, Lewis Morris, (319) 378-9116, morrisle@aol.com; **Bryce Canyon AD 36**, Dayton, OH, 10/1-4, Bruce Campbell, (408) 729-6088, ad36bc@gmail.com; **Canopus AS 34**, New London, 18/19-23, Carl Rennerfeldt, (402) 533-3271, cmrenner@abbnebraska.com; **Chilton APA 38**, Buffalo, NY, 9/5-9, Bill Seymour, (812) 944-4241, oldmrbill@twc.com; **Detroit AOE 4**, Atlantic City, NJ, 4/24-26, Bill Weidner, (610)

599-8936, ussdetroit@ptd.net; **Diablo SS 479**, Virginia Beach, VA, 10/13-16, Walt Oemcke, (516) 420-1435, oemcke@optonline.net; **Fiske DD/DDR 842**, Saratoga Springs, NY, 9/24-26, Bob Mitchell, (518) 791-0909, sm1ret@nycap.rr.net; **Fleet Tanker Assn**, Washington, 9/18-22, Michael Walsh, (757) 434-4030, michaeljwalsh3@cox.net; **Fletcher DD/DDE 445 & DD 992**, San Antonio, 9/23-26, O.J. Palmer, (775) 513-3435, ojpalmer41@yahoo.com; **Fort Snelling LSD 30**, Minneapolis-St. Paul, 9/11-15, Robert & Kathy Bergant, (262) 782-7876, rkbergant@yahoo.com; **Greenwich Bay AVP 41**, Charleston, FL, 10/10-13, Richard Huey, (248) 824-4915, rhuey027@ao.com; **Guam LPH 9**, Las Vegas, 9/20-26, Frank Walker, (816) 752-1008, mushball1@yahoo.com; **Iwo Jima LPH 2/LHD 7**, Hampton, VA, 10/2-5, Robert McAnally, (757) 723-0317, yujack46709@gmail.com; **Julius A. Furer DEG/FFG 6**, San Antonio, 11/7-9, Al Martins, (603) 352-1789, predators.fan@gmail.com; **Kitty Hawk CVA/CV 63**, Charleston, SC, 9/16-19, James Melka, (319) 934-4416, jfmelka@netins.net; **Lake Champlain CV/CVA/CVS 39**, Mystic, CT, 9/30-10/3, James Brown, (386) 279-7440, gat1964@aol.com; **LaSalle LPD/AGF 3**, Pensacola, FL, 4/20-24, Joe & Ruth Merchant, (918) 541-3727, joeandrmerchant@cableone.net; **Lofberg DD 759**, Albuquerque, NM, 9/26-30, Frederick Shields, (856) 854-9215, fjshield@scarletmail.rutgers.edu; **Long Beach CGN 9**, Newport News, VA, 9/9-15, Richard Horowitz, (918) 457-6312, marinok131@gmail.com; **Monongahela AO 178**, New Orleans, 6/4-7, Jerry Miller, (417) 247-7744, jjmusn@aol.com; **Navasota**, Navasota, TX, 11/9, Carl Dry, (936) 894-3543, dry34@reagan.com; **O'Bannon DD 450, DDE 450 & DD 987**, San Antonio, 9/23-26, O.J. Palmer, (775) 513-3435, ojpalmer41@yahoo.com; **Piedmont AD 17, Dixie AD 14, Sierra AD 18**, Dayton, OH, 9/23-27, Michael Morast, (517) 673-7157, memorast@yahoo.com; **Radford DD/DDE 446**, Kansas City, MO, 9/25-29, Chuck Parsons, (304) 927-0094, ussradford@gmail.com; **Rainier AE 5**, Muskogee, OK, 9/30-10/4, Bill Welch, (918) 691-0903, scrapped1@live.com; **Sea Cat SS 399**, Pigeon Forge, TN, 9/30-10/4, Dave Garraway, (772) 571-5263, davelou1258@comcast.net; **Simon Lake AS 33**, Savannah, GA, 9/23-27, John Craig, (732) 752-7534, fmfd103@aol.com; **Sperry AS 12**, Reno, NV, 10/1-4, David Jackson, (360) 435-6919, djpanda34@cs.com; **Tin Can Sailors - Buck** DD 761, Jacksonville, FL, 9/22-26, Glen Bakken, (508) 677-0515, monica@destroyers.org; **VC/VAW-12**, Norfolk, VA, 10/15-18, Richard Bray, (585) 576-0595, leighbray@hotmail.com; **VP-4**, San Diego, 9/11-15, Larry Hames, (503) 688-9804, larry.hames@vp4association.com; **Waller DD/DDE 466**, Philadelphia, 10/16-20, John McCabe, (215) 280-5111, johnmccabe@hotmail.com; **Wilkinson DL 5**, Warwick, MA, 9/11-14, John Lair, (619) 479-7387, hobocamp@aol.com; **William M. Wood DD/DDR 715**, Ocean City, MD, 10/16-20, Jerry Chapman, (630) 330-2388, dd717pres@comcast.net

yahoo.com; **Witek DD/EDD 848**, Albany, NY, 9/29-10/3, John Noonan, (570) 427-4652, countryy@verizon.net

LIFE MEMBERSHIP

Post 208, MI: John C. Weber

IN SEARCH OF

4th Bn 39th Inf 9th Inf Div (Bearcat, Dong Tam, Vietnam, 1966-1969), Jim Haines, (303) 809-1815, lzbearcat67@live.com
95th AB Wing Stat Services (Biggs AFB, El Paso, TX, 1962-1963), Ben Russell, (619) 433-8569, bjrusl-01@att.net
122nd Med Det (Dental) (Butzbach, Germany, 1972-1976), Henry Radant, (804) 732-5818, radant88@icloud.com
44th Ord 30th Arty Bde USARYIS Supporting Nike Hercules and HAWK Msl Systems, (Okinawa, Oct 1968-Jan 1970), Fred Meyer, (480) 363-1981, mafastfred@aol.com
440th Army Band (Fort Bragg, NC, 1955-1957), Lyle Puppe, (612) 298-7344, lylepuppe@hotmail.com
728th MP Bn (1950-2019), David Shafer, (573) 528-9170, shaferde@windstream.net
A Co 122nd Ord Bn 3rd Armor Div (Fliegerhorst Kaserne, Germany, 1962-1965), Helms Radant, (804) 732-5818, radant88@icloud.com
D Co (Death Dealers), 4th Bn 16th Inf 1st Inf Div Forward (Cooke Bks, Goppingen, Germany, 1986-1988), Helms Radant, (804) 732-5818, radant88@icloud.com
Fort Riley, KS, Soccer Team, 5th Army Soccer Tournament (Fort Bliss, TX, 1971), Richard Bravo, (619) 948-4455
Guadalupe AO 32, Glen Schultz, (954) 494-2726, glendorig6890@yahoo.com
HHB 6th/67th ADA (Fort Riley, KS, 1970-1972), R. Bravo (619) 948-4455, rbravob2@yahoo.com
MOS 01E Mathematics Statistics Asst (1973-1974 & Other Yrs), Mark Manduke, (919) 481-9505, tenezniyesh@outlook.com
Naval Ord Facility (Port Lytaey, French Morocco, 1955-1956), Carlton Smith, (843) 386-9093
Naval Ord Facility Det, HMS Falcon (Hal Far, Malta, GC, 1956) - Torpedomen, Aviation, Ordnancemen, Carlton Smith, (843) 386-9093
Palau CVE 122, Wardell Stephens, P.O. Box 721, Eloy, AZ 85131
Plt 3013 (MCRD Parris Island, SC, 1967), Harry Hopwood, (352) 543-6879, usmarineck@att.net
Subbase Pearl Harbor Repair Shop X-38 (1962-1966), Walter Olson, (715) 363-2584, twolson@cheqnet.net
Weisbaden AB, Germany, Fire Dept (1969-1973), Andre Greene, (718) 828-5602
YR 71 (Da Nang & Mekong River Div, Vietnam, 1970-1971), Mike "Piezon" Cassesse, 212 Bassett Road, North Haven, CT 06473, (203) 605-3307

TAPS

Randall Coffman, Dept. of Kentucky, Dept. Cmdr. 1995-1996, Nat'l Exec. Cmte. Alt. Memb. 1997-1999, Nat'l Conv. Cmsn. Liaison Cmte. Memb. 2000-2001, 2002-2003 and 2005-2012, Nat'l Children & Youth Cmsn. Liaison Cmte. Memb. 2004-2005, Nat'l Distinguished Guests Cmte. Vice Chmn. 1990-1999, Nat'l Veterans Employment & Education Cmsn. Memb. 2017-2019, Nat'l Exec. Cmte. 1999-2017, Nat'l Citizens Flag Alliance Advisory Cmte. Memb. 2013-2017, Nat'l Media & Communications Cmsn. Liaison Cmte. Chmn. 2012-2013, Nat'l Public Relations Cmsn. Liaison Cmte. Memb. 2003-2004, Nat'l Exec. Cmte. Subcmte. on Cmtes. Memb. 2010-2017, and Nat'l Veterans Affairs & Rehab. Cmsn. Liaison Cmte. Memb. 1999-2000 and 2001-2002.

Dorothy M. Dickson, Dept. of Massachusetts.

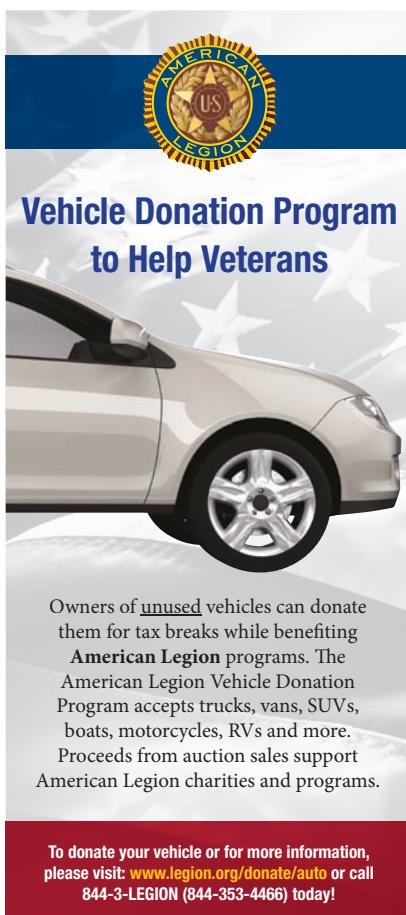
Dept. Cmdr. 1983-1984.

William P. Dolan, Dept. of South Dakota. Dept. Cmdr. 1996-1997, Nat'l Foreign Relations Cncl. Vice Chmn. 2001-2002, Nat'l Sec. Cncl. Vice Chmn. 2010-2011 and Nat'l Public Relations Cmsn. Memb. 2002-2010.

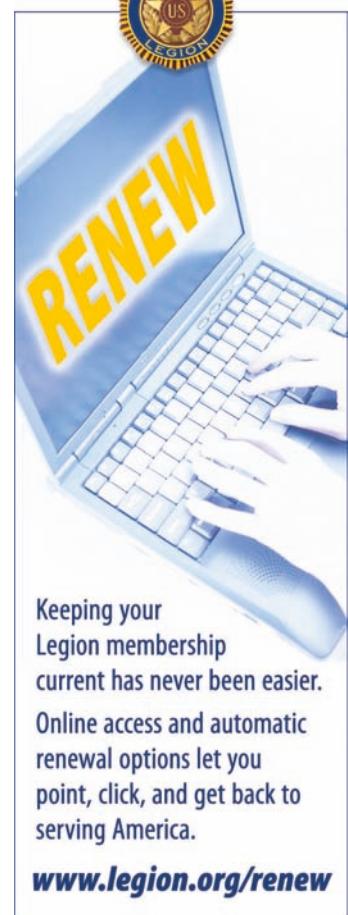
John E. Kalmbach, Dept. of Oregon. Dept.

Cmdr. 2009-2010, Nat'l Americanism Cncl. Vice Chmn. 2006-2007, Nat'l Distinguished Guests Cmte. Vice Chmn. 2008-2009, Nat'l Foreign Relations Cncl. Vice Chmn. 2007-2008 and 2009-2013, and Nat'l Sec. Cncl. Memb. 2013-2017.

William H. Wilsbacher, Dept. of Iowa. Dept. Cmdr. 1992-1993.



The banner features the American Legion logo at the top. Below it, the text reads: "Vehicle Donation Program to Help Veterans". It shows a side view of a silver car and a person's hands typing on a laptop keyboard. At the bottom, it says: "Owners of unused vehicles can donate them for tax breaks while benefiting American Legion programs. The American Legion Vehicle Donation Program accepts trucks, vans, SUVs, boats, motorcycles, RVs and more. Proceeds from auction sales support American Legion charities and programs." A red call-to-action box at the bottom right encourages donations with the text: "To donate your vehicle or for more information, please visit: www.legion.org/donate/auto or call 844-3-LEGION (844-353-4466) today!"



The banner features the American Legion logo at the top. It shows a laptop screen with the word "RENEW" in large yellow letters. Below the laptop, it says: "Keeping your Legion membership current has never been easier. Online access and automatic renewal options let you point, click, and get back to serving America." At the bottom, it provides the website: "www.legion.org/renew".

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I saw an ad for burial plots and thought, "This is the last thing I need."

A COLLEGE STUDENT called his father to ask how his weekend had gone. "Light, dark, light, dark, Monday," he quipped.

DID YOU HEAR about the mathematician who was afraid of negative numbers? He would stop at nothing to avoid them.

TURNING VEGAN is a big missed steak.

YOU CAN TRAIN a cat to do anything the cat wants to do at the moment it wants to do it.

IN THE EARLY DAYS of motorized vehicles, a mountain dweller was astonished the first time he saw an automobile go by without any visible means of locomotion. He was even more astonished when a motorcycle followed closely in its wake.

"Gee whiz!" he exclaimed to his son. "Who'd have supposed that thing had a colt?"

JUST BURNED 2,000 calories. That's the last time I leave brownies in the oven while I nap.

A BACON SANDWICH walks into a bar and orders a whiskey. "Sorry," growls the bartender, "we don't serve food here."

"WHOEVER WROTE the song 'Easy Like Sunday Morning' never took their kids to church on a regular basis." – Tim Hawkins



"I'm weaning him from the TV. That's a placebo remote."



"Knowing when to quit is half the battle.
Knowing not to start is the other."

A MILITARY BASE COMMANDER called to complain that the weather-forecasting software our company created for them kept reporting unexplainable wind shifts.

"Do you know where the sensor is located?" my co-worker asked.

"Of course," he responded. "It's where we park the helicopters."

Submitted by Angelo Giordano, as published in Reader's Digest's "Humor in Uniform"

Do you have a funny military-related anecdote? To share with *Reader's Digest*, visit rd.com/submit. Remember to include your American Legion post name and number.

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EASY TO ENJOY Wherever you go, a built-in camera makes it easy and fun for you to capture and share your favorite memories. And a flashlight with a built-in magnifier helps you see in dimly lit areas. With all the features you need, the Jitterbug Flip also comes with a long-lasting battery, so you won't have to worry about running out of power.

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